Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee Meets in Cairo

'Urayqat on Separation of Peoples

NC2310132894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, arrived in Cairo this afternoon.

Upon arrival 'Urayqat said the committee will discuss the recent Israeli measures taken against the Palestinian people, including the arbitrary closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that this closure conflicts with the spirit of the peace agreement. The committee will also discuss the detainees and the need for finding a formula for releasing them, and the outstanding issues on crossing points and safe passages for individuals and goods.

'Urayqat said that in view of the recent developments the time has come, as Rabin wants, to separate the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. He indicated that this separation cannot take place while the occupation continues. Therefore, it is necessary to speed up the phases and start the final phase of negotiations immediately.

Referring to Israel's security fears and its attempts to change the course of the peace process for security considerations, 'Urayqat said these attempts will utterly fail. He said that if we want to rescue the peace process, it is necessary for us to achieve as soon as possible the peace that will end the occupation and establish a Palestinian state.

'Urayqat said we will suggest to the Israeli delegation the possibility of starting the final phase of negotiations immediately, because the current closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip breaks all the rules of the peace process. Furthermore, all detainees must be released in accordance with the signed agreements. He expressed the hope that the Liaison Committee's meetings will produce good results. He also expressed the hope that the Israeli delegation will respond to the Palestinian proposals for separating the two peoples.

Musa, Peres on Mubarak Meeting

NC2310150694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—After the round of talks held at noon today between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that the talks focussed on the latest developments of the Middle East peace process on the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Syrian tracks, in addition to the recent developments in Gaza and the West Bank. The talks also focussed on a number of other topics that fall within the framework of the peace process.

He said that the talks addressed the economic summit to be held in Casablanca, Morocco, at the end of October.

'Amr Musa said that he will finalize talks with Peres at the Foreign Ministry later today.

'Amr Musa said that the talks he will hold with Peres at the Foreign Ministry will address some issues which President Mubarak believes need finalizing. After that, the Palestinian-Israeli talks will start at the highest level, because high-level contact is very important at this point in time.

Shim'on Peres said he held talks with President Mubarak and 'Amr Musa in a cordial atmosphere. The talks were beneficial and fruitful. Since Egypt is sponsoring the Middle East peace process, he said, my government strongly felt that I should come to Cairo and provide a detailed explanation of the agreement with Jordan, which is the third agreement reached in the Middle East. The first one was with Egypt and the second with the Palestinians.

He added: I mentioned to President Mubarak that regarding the negotiations with Jordan, we should note two points. The first is that no state has lost an inch of territory. Jordan has retrieved every piece of its land, as has Israel.

The Israeli foreign minister said that they reached agreement with the Jordanians over the borders, which will remain open to promote greater progress, growth, and investment.

Peres added that the second point pertains to water. We agreed to give Jordan 50 million cubic meters of water. In addition, we will try to provide it with a further 100 million cubic meters of water.

He pointed out that the two most important points are to allow the Middle East to develop economically. [Words indistinct] and how these countries radically changed from the economic point of view. The conditions for citizens in these countries have also changed. The Middle East region could do the same thing if the borders are opened up and a policy favoring a market economy is followed, and if we cooperate in an effective way with good intentions and full force.

Peres said: We discussed another important point, which is stopping those people trying to murder the process of peace and prosperity—the terrorists. We need to fight terrorism and violence with all our might. At the same time, we should be careful not to hurt innocent people. Only those people involved in acts of terrorism should be paying the price, he said.

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Shim'on Peres added: The second reason for my trip to Cairo is to meet with the Palestinian side in the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee. Once again, we wish to confirm that by signing the agreement with Jordan, we are not delaying or ignoring our relations with the Palestinians. We will adhere to the letter and spirit of our agreements and treaties with the Palestinians. We will always be concerned about making progress in the economic situation of Gaza and Jericho to the utmost degree possible.

Peres said: We and the Palestinians expect to work on stopping those who are trying to destroy the peace treaty between us so that they do not realize their desire. We will work together for the sake of peace and economic prosperity.

Answering a question on the methods they will use to combat Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Peres said: We must take two courses of action. The first course of action is procedural on all levels. The second course of action is to confront all the wings supporting Hamas, including official statements that support acts of violence and killing. Such statements, whether released by Muslims, Christians, or Jews, give a dark impression about our life. We will continue to take measures to put an end to the phenomenon of Hamas.

Answering a question on the Israeli violation of the treaty with the Palestinians regarding Jerusalem, Peres said that there has been no violation. We said that Jordan's current spiritual role in Jerusalem will be respected, and no one made any counterproposals.

Answering a question on closing the Gaza Strip, Peres said: We did not wake up suddenly one morning and decide to close off the Gaza Strip. We made that decision after terrorist acts took place against the Israelis. Three terrorist acts took place in two weeks. The first was murder on a Jerusalem street. The second was the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier. The third was the bus blast in Tel Aviv. This is why protective measures should be taken to put an end to violence and the spread of terrorism. These are temporary measures but they have to be taken. Regarding progress on the Syrian track, Peres said that we have not yet reached agreement, but we continue our work.

Answering a question on the economic summit to be held in Casablanca, Peres said that this meeting is very important and will be attended by numerous delegations from various countries. For the first time, Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, American, European, and Asian delegations will meet to discuss world economy and bolster economic cooperation.

Answering a question about whether today's talks addressed the issue of how to confront Hamas, 'Amr Musa said that this was not discussed.

Answering a question on developments in the Syrian-Israeli track of the talks, 'Amr Musa said: We still believe that this track is in a much better position than previously and the general atmosphere surrounding it is much better. The two sides are taking continuous and firm steps toward discussing the major obstacles. I hope that some progress is achieved on this.

On whether President Mubarak had discussed the Syrian track, 'Amr Musa said: Of course we discussed this issue in detail. This point took up more than half the time of the meeting.

Answering a question on whether there will be great accomplishments on the Syrian track during U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to the region, 'Amr Musa said: Perhaps some progress will take place, but we should not be overly optimistic. Let us talk about progress, not great accomplishments. Progress is possible.

Regarding the Palestinian demand to ease the closure and loosen restrictions, 'Amr Musa said: They have asked for this directly, and we support them on this point.

Answering a question on whether the release of Hamas leader Shaykh Yasin could lead to defusing tension, Peres said: We do not believe so; we are still discussing this matter.

Musa, Peres Hold News Conference

NC2310161794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Egypt has two goals; consultations on the peace process with Egyptian officials led by President Husni Mubarak and the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli talks on the implementation of the declaration of principles and the transition to a new stage, with Palestinian elections topping the agenda.

At a joint news conference with Peres, Musa said that during his talks with the Israeli foreign minister, they resumed discussions on various issues concerning the Palestinian-Israeli track. He noted that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, and his delegation took part in the meeting.

Peres said he had come to Cairo to boost the peace process, enhance relations between the two countries, and open the door to other parties to join the peace process. He added: Israel is about to sign an agreement with Jordan, but this will not lessen our commitment to the agreement reached with the Palestinians.

Peres said they are now discussing the Palestinian elections and he hoped for progress on the Syrian track. He added that the Casablanca economic summit will discuss economic cooperation between the region's countries.

He noted that he briefed President Mubarak today on the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

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Replying to a question on Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's statement on Israel's readiness to (?negotiate) with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Peres said there can be no negotiations with Hamas because Hamas is working to destroy the peace process and Israel itself.

He added that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement gave the Palestinians self-rule, and a final solution will be negotiated in two years time, noting that Israel is working to stop terrorism.

Answering a question on the date the borders with Gaza and the West Bank will be reopened, Peres said he could not set a date but noted that the closure is not permanent and that borders will be reopened at an appropriate time when circumstances allow.

Replying to a question on Peres' and Sha'th's visits to Cairo, Musa said the Palestinian and Israeli delegations' visit to Cairo is for the purpose of resuming negotiations. He added that Egypt had called for the resumption of these talks because it considers the Palestinian-Israeli Accord as a first step and that elections are of a great significance and an important measure.

He said: We expect a settlement to be reached on the Palestinian track enabling the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination and to coexist with the Israelis as neighbors.

He explained that this will be done through negotiations and that halting the negotiations or attempting to undermine this process will only harm the peace process and cause chaos in the region. Therefore, he noted, Egypt believes that every opportunity should be created to facilitate these negotiations so that a comprehensive and just peace can be reached according to the rules agreed upon by all parties.

Mubarak, Peres Comment on Meeting

TA2310172994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] I hope that by the end of the year a peace agreement between Israel and Syria will be achieved. This was said by Egyptian President Mubarak today. Mubarak held a meeting with Foreign Minister Peres in his Cairo palace and was briefed by him about the Israel-Jordan peace agreement. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports from Cairo:

[Begin recording] [Segal] After his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak told Israeli correspondents that Syria must not be ignored, because it is a significant power in the region. Mubarak hopes an agreement between Israel and Syria is achieved by the end of the year; however, he emphasized that there are still problems standing in the way of such an agreement.

[Mubarak's remarks in Arabic followed by Segal's translation and comments] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is serious about peace. There are several problems stemming from the lack of trust between the sides, a thing which requires additional time.

Mubarak expressed satisfaction about the fact that U.S. President Bill Clinton will arrive in Damascus this week and expressed his hope that this will facilitate the peace process. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, however, said we must not have too many expectations of a dramatic breakthrough. Let us speak in terms of progress, Musa told us at the end of the meeting at the al-Ittihadiyah Palace in Cairo.

We asked Husni Mubarak whether he will attend the Israel-Jordan peace agreement signing ceremony. He told the Israeli correspondents jokingly that nobody has invited him to attend the ceremony:

[Mubarak's remarks in Arabic followed by Segal's translation and comments] Nobody invited me; am I to invite myself? Jordan decided to invite people at the ministerial level; therefore, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will attend the ceremony.

Mubarak was asked about the sensitive issue of Jerusalem over which Jordan and the Palestinian Authority are at odds. Mubarak himself prefers not to interfere in this issue:

[Mubarak's remarks in Arabic followed by Segal's translation and comments] This is a very sensitive issue, and a way must be found to prevent future conflicts, because religious issues are very sensitive.

Mubarak discussed with Peres all tracks of the peace process. He also briefed Peres on al-Asad's visit to Cairo last week. Peres did not hear great messages from Mubarak, only hopes for the future.

After the meeting Peres was asked whether they discussed the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] issue, which features so prominently in Israel. Peres expressed satisfaction with the position expressed by the Egyptians:

[Peres] Both the president and foreign minister expressed their opinion on this issue, and both parties regard it as posing a great danger to all of us.

[Segal] This issue will also be raised in the discussions of the Israel-PLO Supreme Liaison Committee, which convenes in Cairo later today. [end recording]

Peres on Need To Combat 'Terrorism'

TA2310181094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At today's discussions of the supreme Palestinian-Israeli liaison committee in Cairo, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel cannot continue to tolerate terrorist attacks. Peres stressed the urgent need to find a method to deal with terrorism.

Our correspondent in Cairo Arye Gus reports that the Palestinians expressed opposition to the closure of the

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Gaza Strip, claiming that this constitutes a form of collective punishment that placed an intolerable burden on the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinians also voiced complaints about the agreement between Jordan and Israel, including the issues of Jerusalem and water rights.

Foreign Minister Peres replied that the closure was not an Israeli policy but a necessary consequence of the present circumstances. He rejected the complaints against the agreement with Jordan, noting that the treaty did not in any way contravene Israel's commitments to the Palestinians. Israel said that it had no desire to hold up the negotiations and was prepared to continue discussing the transfer of additional responsibilities to the Palestinians. Israel was also prepared to convene the quadripartite committee with the participation of Jordan and Egypt and discuss the issue of the Palestinian refugees who were displaced in 1967. The discussions are continuing.

Peres Brings No Proposals

NC2310204694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that Shim'on Peres, Israeli foreign minister and head of the Israeli delegation to the Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee meetings, has told Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian team to the meetings, that the work of this committee will be confined to the Palestinian proposals concerning the current issues. Peres said that there will be no Israeli solutions to these issues during this round of talks.

Knowledgeable sources have told MENA that Peres has asked the Palestinian side to amend the priority list of these proposals. Peres said that the response to these proposals will be made available after U.S. President Bill Clinton's tour of the region this week.

The sources said that as a result of this Israeli stand, Dr. Sha'th called for advancing the committee's negotiations, which so far have lasted for more than four hours.

Meanwhile, Israeli Minister of Environment Yosi Sarid left Cairo today. He is due to visit Bahrain at the head of an Israeli delegation to the meetings of the Environment Committee, slated to be held there tomorrow.

Palestinian Official on Meeting

NC2410113394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, has stressed that the closure of the Rafah checkpoint is in itself a violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the committee meeting late last night, al-Tarifi said that the Palestinian side had called for a meeting of the Liaison Committee following the abduction of an Israeli soldier and Israel's claims that the abducted soldier was in Gaza, something that the course of events proved to be incorrect. He added that for more than seven hours the committee members discussed the issue of the cutting off of Gaza and the West Bank and some issues related to the corridors between Gaza and Jericho.

Al-Tarifi noted that the Israelis are deliberately obstructing efforts to find a solution for the issues presented to the Security Affairs Committee and are sticking to a particular position, which is rejected by the Palestinian. He added: Regarding the safe corridor, we tried this time to begin with implementing the issues that are agreed upon and on which negotiations will start within one week. The Security Affairs Committee will submit a report to the Liaison Committee on progress in this issue within two weeks.

Al-Tarifi added that the question of the crossing points has been finalized, noting that there had been some outstanding matters in this regard, such as the transit of Palestinian individuals and how to share revenues at these crossing points. Although the outstanding issues were technical, he added, the Israeli side was deliberately delaying an agreement on the crossing points. He added: This matter was resolved today; and, pending the approval of the Palestinian Authority on what has been agreed upon, the agreement will be ready for implementation on 31 October, as stipulated in the joint statement, he added. [passage omitted]

Al-Tarifi added that the Palestinian side will reply to the questions concerning the legislative elections raised by the Israeli delegation at the previous round of negotiations. These questions, he added, are of a technical nature and concern the election proceedings and the number of Palestinian National Council members. He stressed that there are no Israeli conditions regarding the elections. Al-Tarifi added that it had been agreed to refer the question of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails to the confidence-building committee.

On the possibility of a meeting between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, al-Tarifi said that during the last meeting at Erez crossing the two agreed to meet again at the beginning of November to decide on the negotiations.

Concerning the siege of Gaza, al-Tarifi said that it had been agreed that the Israeli side will initiate measures to lift the siege gradually.

Statement Issued

NC2410071394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0005 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—The Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee concluded its meetings late last night. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and economic cooperation in the Palestinian

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National Authority [PNA], led the Palestinian side while Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres led the Israeli side.

A joint statement was issued at the end of the committee meeting, which lasted over seven hours. The statement condemned the recent acts of violence, particularly those targeting civilians, which could have negative repercussions for the peace process in the region. The statement noted that the Palestinian side spoke of the effects of the siege imposed on the Palestinian people and economy. The Israeli side stressed that it will take every step to help the Palestinian economy and secure the flow of tourists, investment, and trade in the areas under the jurisdiction of the PNA. The two sides decided to continue the negotiations on elections in the Palestinian territory.

The statement noted that the two sides agreed to invite the Governments of Egypt and Jordan to participate, on the foreign ministerial level, in the committee to be set up under Article 12 of the Declaration of Principles. The two parties initialed an agreement on international passageways to go into effect on 31 October. The agreement on passageways provides for the passage of individuals and goods without restriction. A committee has been formed to examine the conditions of the goods and transport. The committee will begin its work on 25 October.

The Liaison Committee agreed to conclude an agreement on the conditions for the security corridor between Gaza and Jericho. The Liaison Committee assigned the standing committee the task of negotiating the points on which no agreement has been reached within two weeks, to expedite the establishment of a security corridor in accordance with the Cairo Agreement. The Liaison Committee decided to establish a joint committee to begin negotiations on the Gaza port within a week from today.

The two sides reached a protocol on a temporary international presence (international force). They agreed that the Norwegian foreign minister, as head of the Liaison Committee, should invite the countries that have agreed to participate in this force—Turkey, Norway, Finland, Canada, and Australia—in addition to two other EU states to be chosen by the European Union to participate in this force.

The statement called on the donor states to swiftly extend financial aid to accelerate the early empowerment in the West Bank and Gaza. The donor states are scheduled to meet on 2 November. The statement noted that the Palestinian side raised the issue of the release of prisoners, in accordance with the Cairo Agreement, and that the Israeli side explained that this issue will be discussed by the Confidence-Building Committee.

Agreements Reached

TA2410074994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last night Israel and the PLO issued a joint statement condemning terror. At the conclusion of the Supreme Israeli-PLO Liaison Committee's session, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to prevent violence that aims to sabotage the peace process. Our correspondent Arye Gus returned from Cairo early this morning and gives this report:

[Gus] At 0100 this morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced a series of agreements achieved by the Supreme Liaison Committee. The Palestinian delegates, as tired as the foreign minister, had been forced to leave some time earlier to catch their flight home.

The first issue was the joint statement condemning terror. The most recent acts of violence and their impact on peace had been discussed, the statement said, and the two sides stressed their condemnation of such deeds, which aim to harm the peace process. They agree to continue implementing the Declaration of Principles and other agreements. Israel and the PLO stressed their pledge to take every measure to prevent violence aimed to torpedo the peace process. The foreign minister stated at the very beginning of the talks that Israel would not tolerate terrorist attacks and that ways to deal with terror must be found.

For their part, the Palestinians raised a series of problems, including their complaint about the closure, which they view as a collective punishment. Israel announced at the committee meeting that it will make every effort to prevent harm to the territories' economic growth and to facilitate tourism and investments during the closure.

The sides achieved a series of other agreements on equally important issues. A joint call on the donor countries to finance the early empowerment was made. The sides agreed on a 400-strong temporary international presence in eight autonomous locations, in which various countries will be invited to participate. An agreement on international crossings was initialed and will be implemented as of the end of October. As for safe passage between Gaza And Jericho—another stumbling block—the sides agreed that the Liaison Committee will conclude its discussions and a relevant committee will deal with the details.

Another issue which has been troubling the Palestinians—prisoner release per the Cairo agreement—was again raised by them. Foreign Minister Peres referred the Palestinians to the committee for confidence building. [passage omitted]

Jordan-Israel Border Crossings Under Discussion

JN2310081094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 94 p 3

[Article by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan and Israel are working out details of arrangements and procedures for Jordanians wishing to visit Israel, official sources said Saturday.

"Detailed arrangements are being worked out for Jordanians wishing to travel to Israel," said one official, "I believe their passports would not be stamped during the initial phase."

Jordan has agreed to allow about 550 Israeli visitors a day to cross over into the Kingdom as of Nov. 1 in a temporary measure until diplomatic relations are established, the sources said.

Jordanians and Israeli negotiators, who discussed opening the borders to each other until the last day of peace talks in al-'Aqabah on Thursday, had ironed out differences over details of the arrangements.

While Jordan initially said it would allow up to 100 Israeli visitors daily until full diplomatic relations were established, Israeli delegates negotiated a larger number, especially in light of Israel's permitting of an unrestricted number of Jordanian citizens to visit the Jewish state, the sources said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a peace negotiator told the JORDAN TIMES that the two sides had finally agreed to allow up to 350 Israelis to cross into Jordan from the northern border west of Irbid, which is not due to open until the second week of next month, and 200 from the al-'Aqabah-Elat crossing in the south.

The sources said that Israel had wanted the borders opened to each other's citizens before Nov. 1, but that due to technical conditions, this was not possible since the northern border, a bridge on the al-Yarmuk River, would not be ready by that time.

"It also takes time for the travel agents to process the paperwork for the visa applications," the negotiator said, adding that the number of visitors was flexible and could be changed once diplomatic missions were established in Amman and Tel Aviv where the visa applications would be processed.

Jordan and Israel agreed to establish diplomatic relations one month after the signing of the peace treaty at the al-'Aqabah-Elat border next Wednesday, a ceremony that will be attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton and more than 5,000 guests.

The al-'Aqabah-Elat crossing, which was opened in August to third country nationals, will be closed on Tuesday until Thursday, the sources said.

Agricultural Agreement Signed

TA2110141794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Jordan have signed an agreement on agricultural cooperation. The agreement deals with cooperation in the areas of veterinary and plant protection and determines methods of shipping vegetable and meat products between the two countries. Our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov reports that Israel and Jordan will attempt to jointly eradicate such diseases as rabies, hoof and mouth disease, and cattle plague.

Cairo Envoy on Bombing, Jordan-Israel Pact

NC2110221394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has stressed that no one expected the peace process to proceed without problems, because there are Palestinian opponents and Israeli extremists who do not want the peace process to gain momentum toward the final stage. In a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM published Saturday, he says that the Palestinian Authority [PA] has undertaken the responsibility for and commitment to the peace process ever since it signed the Washington agreement. He says that the PA is eager to advance the peace process, noting that the Israeli side bears this responsibility to a greater degree.

Regarding the tourist bus blast in Tel Aviv, al-Qidrah said that the killing of civilians is totally rejected, whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis anywhere in the world. He said that in his view the solution lies in continuing the negotiations process with greater momentum, noting that despite its ugliness and cruelty, the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre did not prevent the Palestinians from continuing the negotiations and they signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Regarding the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters, al-Qidrah said that Israel made a great uproar and held the PA responsible for the kidnapping and for preserving the life of the soldier. He said that Rabin repeatedly stressed that the soldier was in Gaza and it later turned out that he was not there and that the operation was not planned in Gaza or Jericho.

Responding to a question on the impact of the Tel Aviv bus blast on the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, al-Qidrah said that although the negotiations have not been suspended, as happened when the Israeli soldier was kidnapped, the incident has dampened the atmosphere of the negotiations.

Discussing the clauses of the recently signed Jordanian-Israeli agreement and the issue of the holy places in particular, al-Qidrah said that Jerusalem is a Palestinian city according to the Security Council resolutions, international law, the Arab Summit conferences, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the nonaligned countries. He said: I believe that the brothers in Jordan should have consulted, coordinated, and reached an understanding with the PLO leadership and with President Yasir 'Arafat before agreeing on anything related to Jerusalem.

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He stressed that what the Jordanian and Israeli sides have done is considered a clear violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which provides that negotiations over the status of Jerusalem should begin not later than the beginning of the third year [after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement].

Israel, Egypt Reach Agreement on Nuclear Waste Control

TA2410080694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid and a large Israeli delegation landed in Bahrain early this morning. This is the first visit of an Israeli minister in a Gulf state. He was received by the Bahraini Foreign Ministry's protocol staff.

Tonight the Israeli delegation will participate in the discussions of the multilateral peace talks on environment. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that during the visit, Minister Sarid will also meet with Bahraini cabinet ministers.

Israel and Egypt have reached an agreement on Israeli nuclear waste contol, thereby removing a significant obstacle in the environment talks in Bahrain. Minister Sarid told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that agreement was reached in a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Cairo yesterday. Minister Sarid refused to discuss the nature of the agreement, but our correspondent notes that Egypt had demanded that the Israeli nuclear waste issue be raised at the talks. The Egyptians contend that the waste endangers the Sinai Desert.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Views Meeting With Clinton, Violence

NC2410074394 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Telelphone interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] We have His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat with us on the line from Gaza. Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Following the bus explosion in Tel Aviv and the abduction of an Israeli soldier, how do you view Israel's handling of the situation?

['Arafat] The two incidents you have mentioned are part of attempts to destroy the peace process. They resulted in what I personally believe to be innocent victims. I personally sent my condolences to their families. But, let me remind you, and this is an important point, that there are attempts at collective punishment by Israel against our citizens, workers, students, traders, and all members of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. This is not to mention the resulting pain, economic losses, and unemployment that burden the Palestinian people in these difficult times.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Israel's mass punishment of the Palestinian people, which you have mentioned, certainly has its economic impact on the Palestinian people. How does the Palestinian Authority [PA] handle this?

['Arafat] We are undoubtedly passing through a difficult stage. We are trying to find new jobs for these workers but unfortunately... [pauses] We have contacted the World Bank so that it can move fast to push through at least the priority projects to accommodate these workers and enable them to make a living. We hope our efforts will succeed, God willing.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In light of your meeting with some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders and following the recent events, how are you handling the issue of Hamas?

['Arafat] We insist on telling them that they must abide by the peace process. We also tell them that nobody has the right to use Palestinian territory to carry out any military or political action that runs contrary to the policy line adopted by the Palestinian people and their leadership. What has taken place is an action that seriously harms the peace process. It is an attempt to obstruct the Palestinian march, which seeks to establish an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] One last question before we finish this dialogue. When you meet your brother President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Clinton in Cairo, what ideas will you raise with President Clinton in particular?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly we have many things we must raise with President Clinton. His Excellency President Mubarak will undoubtedly help me in this regard. We always view President Mubarak as a big brother who cares about the Palestinian people's affairs and seeks to serve the interests of the Arab nation. We will concentrate on the need to push the peace process forward, eliminate the obstacles obstructing it, hold the elections soon, swiftly implement what has been agreed upon in Cairo and Washington, and fulfill the international promises made to the Palestinian people by the donors. Only very few of these promises have been put into effect. The Palestinian people are entitled to be treated like the other peoples in the region. The Palestinian people, who have suffered much from occupation and whose infrastructure has been destroyed, have a right to be given special attention by the world community, particularly President Clinton. This is because the United States is one of the Madrid Conference cosponsors. President Clinton himself sponsored the first signing ceremony between us and the Israelis in Washington.

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['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much, Mr. President. You are always welcome on the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] I would like to send special greetings to my brother President Husni Mubarak and to the Egyptian people, who continue to make sacrifices for the sake of Palestine. We have been brothers through good and bad times since ancient history. God willing, we will pray together in holy Jerusalem, the first place to which Muslims turned for prayers, the third ranking holy shrine, the landing place of Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him, and the birthplace of Christ, may peace be upon him.

Remarks on Meeting

JN2210200394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton during his tour of the region next week. President 'Arafat and Clinton will discuss the possibility of the U.S. Administration pressuring the donor states to deliver the money promised to the Palestinian Authority. 'Arafat will also request the U.S. President to pressure Israel into implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

'Arafat said: I hope to reach a permanent agreement, otherwise it is possible that everything will explode. He noted that this wish is not a Palestinian need but an Israeli, European, American, and international need.

In an interview with the U.S. ABC television network, 'Arafat voiced his regret that Israel has not implemented accurately what it pledged to do in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. 'Arafat regretted the lack of any final agreement to hold the legislative elections and the redeployment of Israeli army in populous areas.

Hamas Spokesman Says 'Liberation War' To Continue

BR2110135694 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 21 Oct 94 p 13

[Interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Umberto de Giovannangeli; place and date not given: "We of Hamas Willing To Negotiate, But Only on These Conditions"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah is Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] official spokesman in Amman, where the Palestinian fundamentalist movement has its headquarters. Since the Tel Aviv massacre, responsibility for which was claimed by "'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam," Hamas' armed wing, he is the person best placed to explain the "reasons" for this umpteenth terrorist attack.

[De Giovannangeli] The Tel Aviv massacre dismayed and outraged the entire world. How can you justify such a massacre?

[Ghawshah] The members of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam have operational autonomy in the territories controlled by Palestinian autonomy; we concern ourselves with politics.

[De Giovannangeli] But is it "politics" to place bombs in a bus full of civilians?

[Ghawshah] What about the thousands of Palestinians, many of them women and children, killed or wounded by Israeli troops? Is that politics? No Western government expressed outrage about them, nobody sent messages of solidarity or condemned the Israelis. Just as nobody asks us why hundreds of young Palestinians are prepared to die for a just cause, or what drives them to martyrdom. For our part, we are against the occupier, not against the Israeli people.

[De Giovannangeli] The people killed in Tel Aviv belong to the Israeli people; they were defenseless.

[Ghawshah] What we are fighting is a liberation war, with no holds barred, and it will continue until the whole of Palestine has been liberated. Does Israel want peace? Very well, then it must withdraw immediately from the West Bank, relinquish Jerusalem, release the Palestinian political prisoners who have been imprisoned for years, starting with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin (the founder of Hamas—L'UNITA editor's note). Only thus will it make itself credible in the eyes of thousands of Palestinians. We will certainly not stop. And let them not delude themselves that they can curb our struggle by force. They tried that during the intifadah, using every possible means. But it was in vain, because the policy of the iron fist not only failed to defeat us but made us stronger. In any case, the way in which Israel tried to resolve Corporal Wachsman's kidnapping is indicative of Rabin's intentions: We suggested an exchange of prisoners, and he responded with force of arms. We have seen the result.

[De Giovannangeli] Israel's chief rabbi has asked to be able to meet with Hamas' religious leaders to discuss at least a truce. On what conditions would you be prepared to accept it?

[Ghawshah] Israel must withdraw from the West Bank, dismantle the Jewish settlements on the Gaza Strip, and declare an end to the offensive against Hamas. On these bases it is possible to reach a truce.

[De Giovannangeli] But your program is not confined to the liberation of the West Bank; you also demand the destruction of the Israeli State.

[Ghawshah] What we oppose is the Zionist state entity, certainly not Israelis as individuals. What we are fighting for is a state in which there is room for everyone—for the Muslims, the Christians, and the Jews born in Palestine. But the Zionist state is an invention desired by Europe to rid itself of its sense of guilt for the Holocaust. There is no future in the Middle East for such a state, which was created by force and the usurpation of Arab lands.

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[De Giovannangeli] 'Arafat and the Palestinian leaders issued a sharp condemnation of the massacre and accused Hamas of trying to bury the peace process.

[Ghawshah] The document signed by 'Arafat is not a peace agreement but an act of surrender, a sell-out of the Palestinian cause that we will never accept. And the international community is deluding itself if it thinks that this assessment is shared in the occupied territories only by a "minority of extremists." 'Arafat has become Rabin's "policeman" in Gaza. His men are doing the same dirty job done by Israeli troops during the occupation: the arrest of Palestinian fighters. But this road will inevitably lead to an inter-Palestinian conflict. In order to avert it 'Arafat must do only one thing: end the repression against Hamas members and release the men imprisoned by his police.

PLO Officials: No Intention of Hamas Crackdown

TA2110154494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Oct 94 p A2

[Report by Lamia Lahoud and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO officials say the Palestinian Authority in Gaza has no intention of cracking down on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in response to the Tel Aviv bombing.

"The Palestinian Authority wants peace with Israel, but peace inside the Palestinian house is more important. The authority is responsible only for the areas it controls," said Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, a key leader of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah faction in Gaza.

"We reject the assessment that we must choose (between Hamas and Israel). There is no reason to make large arrests or take actions when there is no proven connection to Gaza," Abu-Zayidah said.

But a member of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Jericho told THE JERUSALEM POST that the Palestinian Authority will take action against those Hamas activists in Gaza and Jericho who are preparing terror actions against Israelis.

He said that now was the time to start disarming Hamas activists and other armed elements in the autonomous areas.

"There is only one Palestinian Authority. We cannot tolerate that Hamas creates an authority within the authority, and endangers the peace agreement," he said.

Riyad al-Maliki, an engineering professor from Bi'r Zayt University and spokesman for the rejectionist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that most Palestinians were shocked and outraged by the magnitude of Tuesday's attack and the pictures of the victims shown on Israel Television.

He said this kind of attack may eventually turn the public against Hamas. "For the first time, people looked at the situation rationally and judged the situation by the effect it will have on them," he said.

However, the closure of the territories may change that attitude again. The economic pressure created by the closure will increase frustration among the population, he said.

Al-Maliki said that a confrontation between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas was inevitable. "Yasir 'Arafat has a historic opportunity to crush Hamas's influence in Gaza. Hamas is provoking (things) and public opinion is beginning to turn against them. Israel is pushing him to confront Hamas, and the international community is giving him the green light to do so," he said.

Al-Maliki believes that 'Arafat will start disarming Hamas activists, if necessary by force. He said the Palestinian Authority will try to divide Hamas into a political party which they will invite to run for elections and an outlawed military wing which the authority will try to crush.

'Arafat Told To Choose Between Israel, Arabs

NC2110162794 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 21 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat can either obey Israel or join the Palestinian and Moslem people in the struggle for their rights, a leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said Friday.

Speaking at Friday prayers, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr told worshippers, "The choice for 'Arafat is either to respond to Rabin or to the Palestinian and Islamic people to obtain their rights, and to free their sacred sites and to release prisoners."

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin vowed to crush the fundamentalists after a suicide bomber blew up a Tel Aviv bus on Wednesday, killing 21 people and wounding 48 others.

Rabin has also demanded that 'Arafat crack down on the hardliners opposed to the peace process in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

In the aftermath of another Hamas operation—the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier last week—the Palestinian police arrested several hundred suspected militants.

All but 81 have been released, according to police.

Speaking to a crowd of about 3,000 people at the Hamas-run Palestine Mosque, Bahr repeated a call for the Palestinian police to join the fundamentalists.

"I am sure that our brothers in the police and security forces reject Rabin's orders and maybe a large number of them suffered the (Israeli) occupation in prisons or exile," he said to cheers in the city's main mosque.

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"The mosques are the red line. You cannot come near them." Bahr warned in apparent reference to an unenforced Palestinian police ban on the use of mosques for political speeches.

Sha'th Urges Israel Not To Act Out of 'Anger'

JN2110163394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1056 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Palestinian Authority, by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; date and place not given, from the "Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: The recent developments and the subsequent [Israeli] Government decisions may jeopardize the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. What is your comment on what is currently taking place?

[Sha'th] In fact, my comment has two parts: First, this painful incident that claimed the lives of dozens of innocent civilians led only to the total condemnation by the Palestinian side—the Palestinian National Authority and brother President Yasir 'Arafat. Naturally, I am aware of all the pain and suffering of each member of the families of those killed or wounded in this incident. I am also aware of all the anxiety and anger undoubtedly harbored by many or all Israelis.

Second, I believe that the measures taken by the Israeli Cabinet are the result of anger. However, anger should not lead to making strategic decisions. The only meaning of the decision to separate the two peoples is to cause harm and damage to the Palestinian people.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: What do you say to the Israeli circles which are demanding a halt to the negotiations?

[Sha'th] We believe these, too, are the result of anger and anxiety. By so demanding, the Israelis are responding fully to the demands of those who are trying to undermine the peace process. I believe these operations only aim to undermine the peace process. Otherwise, what are the objectives sought by these operations? Does anyone imagine that by killing civilians in Tel Aviv political objectives can be achieved apart from arousing feelings of hostility between both peoples in a way that will stop the peace process? Thus, these operations aim to stop the peace process.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil: Are contacts or consultations under way for a meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat in order to return things to normal?

[Sha'th] No doubt, this will take place. However, it may be preceded by a meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which is led by me on the Palestinian side and by Peres on the Israeli side. We agreed to meet in Cairo on Sunday.

[Mu'addi] What is on the agenda of the Liaison Committee meeting in Cairo?

[Sha'th] On its agenda are all issues affecting both our relations and the peace process, led by the results of the recent operation and the significance of the two preceding operations. No doubt, there are also issues pertaining to continued negotiations on elections, and objectively moving forward to discuss a transitional agreement regarding the West Bank with all its dimensions and also many outstanding issues in the Gaza-Jericho agreement such as the crossings, the safe corridor, and the release of prisoners. The latter issue will remain extremely important.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

'Urayqat Views Israeli Measures, Elections

JN2110202394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "minister" in the Palestinian Authority, by radio correspondent Nabil Sabbagh; date and place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sabbagh] After the Tel Aviv operation, will the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, which claimed credit for it, not be excluded from the [Palestinian] elections?

['Urayqat] No political party will be excluded for its political positions, whether Hamas or any other party. Every Palestinian, whether he supported or opposed the peace process, has the right to nominate himself or vote in these elections.

[Sabbagh] If Israel continues to reject participation in the elections by the movements opposing the peace process, what will you do?

['Urayqat] The current situation is that we have international partners in our negotiations on the elections. Representatives of the European Union states are attending. These representatives listen to daily reports from us in Cairo. There are also representatives from the U.S. Administration, Russia, and the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Everyone who heard the Israeli demands on the exclusions rejected them in part and parcel.

[Sabbagh] Peres and Sha'th will meet in Cairo the day after tomorrow. What is the reason for this meeting?

['Urayqat] This meeting falls within the framework of the Higher Liaison Committee meetings and aims to resolve the outstanding issues in the Cairo agreement, specifically the early empowerment, safe corridors, and crossings. In addition, the Palestinian delegation will highlight the need to negotiate on the Israeli forces' redeployment outside the densely-populated areas in the West Bank, revise the enacted military laws and orders, and transfer the remainder of powers in order to finalize the phased agreement. This is because elections cannot be held without redeployment. We will thus highlight the method of holding simultaneous negotiations on all

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these issues, so we can reach a phased agreement no later than the end of this year and hold elections at the same time. [passage omitted]

[Sabbagh] After the Tel Aviv operation, Yitzhaq Rabin's government decided to seal off the Palestinian territories indefinitely and bring foreign workers instead of Palestinians to work in Israel. The Palestinian Authority regarded this decision as an economic and social war. What are the reasons behind these considerations?

['Urayqat] The situation as it is now, with Israel sealing off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is, in fact, an economic blow. This is because there is a mutual [Palestinian-Israeli] relationship. The current separation can take place if the strategic Israeli objective is to separate the two peoples, which we will welcome. However, this requires holding immediate negotiations on the final status; namely, negotiations that aim to completely end the occupation as a prelude to establishing our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

However, the Israeli sealing of the territories—as part of a collective punishment—aims to economically subdue our people, deprive our workers of work, remove the sources of their subsistence, and continue the occupation at the same time. This is inconsistent. If Israel wants to separate the two peoples, it should now accept our call for holding negotiations on the final status, emanating from the need to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and reach the final phase immediately in order to begin the establishment of our Palestinian state.

[Sabbagh] Mr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, my last question: Who, from the Palestinian side, will attend the signing ceremony of the Israeli- Jordanian peace treaty?

['Urayqat] In fact, I have no idea about this issue.

[Sabbagh] Would you like to add anything at the end of this interview?

['Urayqat] Thank you very much.

[Sabbagh] Thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Fatah Appeals to Hamas To Join PLO Ranks

NC2210193194 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 22 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction appealed Saturday to the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to "refrain from impulsive acts" and to join ranks with the Palestinian authority.

Palestinian police detained some 350 Hamas members last week after the hardline group kidnapped an Israeli soldier and indicated he was held in Gaza.

The crackdown, urged by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, triggered massive protest demonstrations by Hamas supporters in Gaza.

In a statement directed to "our brothers and friends" in Hamas, Fatah urged the movement to "refrain from impulsive acts and resort to wisdom and objectivity in act and speech."

It criticised the group for issuing "statements which constitute a lot of violations that cannot serve our people and cannot serve Hamas."

"We call on our brothers in Hamas and all political forces, and the political figures to follow a quiet, objective dialogue," Fatah said.

"You are demanded to act with the Palestinian Authority.

"We must all be with the Palestinian Authority without fear of cheering it or of criticising it."

The PLO has been trying to draw Hamas into political life, but its dialogue with the group was stalled by the arrests.

Many of those arrested have been released, and Palestinian police say around 80 remain behind bars.

Rabin repeated his demands to the Palestinian authority to take measures to control Hamas after it claimed responsibility for a bus explosion in Tel Aviv on Wednesday that killed 21 Israelis and injured 48.

The Israeli premier also ordered the indefinite closure of Gaza and the West Bank to keep Palestinians out of Israel.

Hamas Official Proposes 'Cease-Fire' With Israel

JN2210181894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah from the Israeli-occupied territory]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official has called for a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel that will be guaranteed by a third party, such as the United States. He said that Israel must take the initiative because it is the party with arms and power.

Shaykh Jamal Salim, a pragmatic Islamic figure from Nabulus, said that the aim of this agreement is to stop attacks by the two sides against civilians. This agreement must be guaranteed by a third international party.

It is to be noted that a dialogue is currently going on inside Hamas on the usefulness of operations against civilians, which the al-Qassam Battalions, the movement's military wing, began following the Hebron massacre—a dialogue that indicated the existence of two opposing trends in Hamas.

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Shaykh Salim says it is natural to hold a dialogue on this issue because the Islamic teachings stipulate that unarmed civilians must not be attacked. However, the uniqueness of the Palestinian cause and the violence of the Israeli side created counterviolence.

The shaykh said the cease-fire call aims to stop the circle of violence which started when Israel occupied the Palestinian territory and continued following the Hebron massacre.

For their part, other Hamas officials said that Shaykh Salim's call does not necessarily reflect the movement's views and that they have no information on such a call.

Another Hamas figure in Gaza, 'Imad al-Faluji, yesterday renewed the movement's call for a truce with Israel if it responds to conditions the movement offered in 1988 which included Israel's full withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the dismantling of Jewish settlements.

Hamas 'Officially' Confirms Bus Bombing

TA2310092394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaflet distributed in Judaea and Samaria this morning, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads officially confirm their having perpetrated the Tel Aviv attack. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen notes that the video recording of terrorist Salah Nazzal's statement was not an official statement by the organization.

This morning's leaflet says this was the fifth attack carried out in revenge for the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs. Hamas says the attacks will continue.

Shaykh Warns Israel Not To Kill Hamas Leaders

TA2310131294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the West Bank, warned the Israeli Government not to take retaliatory steps against Muslims following the bombing attack in Tel Aviv, such as assassinating the leaders of the Islamic Movement or closing down Islamic institutions.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Shaykh al-Baytawi said that such measures would not resolve the problem but only exacerbate tensions. Al-Baytawi also warned the Palestinian Authority not to yield to Israeli pressure and initiate a confrontation with Islamic activists, because such a confrontation could lead to a civil war.

Hamas Threatens Killings Unless Prisoners Freed

NC2310161594 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 23 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas warned Israel on Sunday to release the group's founder and Palestinian prisoners or face more bloodshed.

"This should be a clear message to the terrorist Rabin and his unstable chief of staff Barak who have ignored our group's humanitarian demands to release Palestinians prisoners," Hamas said in a statement released in Jerusalem.

A Hamas suicide bomber blew up a Tel Aviv bus on Wednesday killing himself and 22 other people.

Attacks would continue until Hamas founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, serving life in jail for murder, and all Palestinian prisoners are freed. Israel holds more than 5,000 prisoners.

"We warn Rabin not to harm Palestinian civilians," the statement added. "We can assure him if he does the response will be shocking and decisive." The Israeli prime minister was also told not to demolish Palestinian homes as a punishment for attacks.

The army has announced that the West Bank family home of the suicide bomber will be demolished soon.

"They should know that those who blow up buses in Tel Aviv are capable of blowing up houses and buildings in the heart of Tel Aviv," Hamas said.

The statement said the Tel Aviv atrocity was the fifth Hamas riposte to the February 25 slaughter by a Jewish settler of 29 Moslems in a Hebron mosque.

" 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam (the Hamas armed wing) promised to avenge the people of Hebron with five operations. 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam does what it says," the statement added.

The five attacks were "appropriate to the ugliness of the Zionist crime," it said.

Two Hamas bus bombings in April at 'Afula and Hadera left 13 dead. In August, a Hamas knifeman stabbed two Israelis to death in the town of Ramalah and on October 9 two militants gunned down two people on a Jerusalem street.

On top of those five attacks, Hamas took an Israeli soldier hostage and tried to trade him for the prisoners.

The hostage, three kidnappers and an army captain all died in a failed rescue operation on October 14.

Decision To Replace Workers Criticized

JN2310203794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Interview with Samir Ghawshah, "labor minister" in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Wafa' al-Bahr; date and place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Bahr] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, labor minister in the Palestinian Authority: Good evening.

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[Ghawshah] Good evening.

[Al-Bahr] Dr. Samir: During today's session, the Israeli Government decided for the first time to bring in foreign workers. How do you view that decision?

[Ghawshah] This is not the first time Israel has tried to import workers. There are foreign workers in Israel. Several thousands have been brought in from Romania and Southeast Asia. However, from its experience last year and from what was said about that experience, we can conclude that foreign workers cannot replace Palestinian workers, who are known for their skill and hard work. In addition, the foreign workers created certain problems regarding their places of residence, language, and lack of skill. Therefore, it was decided that contracts with these workers would end at the beginning of November. But in light of the recent developments, as published in media organs, these contracts will be renewed for another year. Also, 15,000 additional workers are to be brought in—a move that will reflect negatively on the conditions of the Palestinian workers.

[Al-Bahr] This is exactly what we want to tackle. What effect will this decision have, in case it is applied fully?

[Ghawshah] Before talking about unemployment and workers, let us say that this decision has political, economic, and social dimensions. Politically, the policy of collective punishment, as well as the closure of the Gaza Strip—and we are also facing another form of suffering in the Jericho area—will have a serious political dimension. It conflicts with the current agreements and expresses the occupation mentality and not the new peace mentality, as Israel's rulers put it. This is a return to the previous occupation policy, and the Israelis behave as if the Gaza Strip was still under occupation. This policy endangers the peace process, exposes Israel's intentions, and aggravates the political situation in the region. Moreover, this issue also has an economic dimension, which will clearly affect the conditions of the Palestinian workers, create an economic crisis, and increase unemployment. Let us remember that 28,500 Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip travel to Israel every day, although for some reason Israel mentions 25,000 or 26,000 workers. As a result, unemployment will increase not only in the Gaza Strip, but also in the West Bank, and will harm the Israeli side as well as the Palestinian side. It will also lead to social tensions that will reflect negatively on the political and economic situation. [passage omitted]

Hamas Leader Demands PA Protection From Israel

TA2410094294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip, demands that the Palestinian Authority [PA] protect the lives of the members of the Islamic movement in the wake of THE OBSERVER report that says that Israel plans to physically eliminate the Hamas leaders. Al-Zahhar says such deeds will ignite violence in the region.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Israel has released Hamas activist Shaykh Kamal Abu-'Aysha, from the village of Askar near Nabulus, after a six-month administrative detention in the Qezi'ot prison. Shaykh Abu-'Aysha was one of the Hamas activists who had been deported to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon.

The Palestinian Police have released another 60 Hamas activists detained after the kidnapping of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier Nahshon Wachsman. Only 20 of the 400 persons detained after the kidnapping remain in Palestinian Police custody. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian Police are also holding 18 activists of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who are suspected of involvement in events in which gunfire was directed at IDF soldiers in the Gaza Strip.

'Arafat Adviser on Jericho Incident, Measures

JN2410092694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat's press adviser, has voiced astonishment at the Israeli measures against the Jericho area. Abu-Rudaynah said that what took place in Jericho was an isolated incident and that the policy of closures and sieges requires immediate negotiations on the final stage of the negotiations to enable the Palestinian people to establish their Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital.

Abu-Rudaynah said that the success of the peace process calls for immediately and meticulously implementating the agreements signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government and expediting the peace process through the initiation of negotiations on the final stage.

Abu-Zayidah on Plans for Anti-Hamas Action

TA2410101994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, member of the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel and head of the Israeli desk in the Palestinian Authority, in Cairo, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Sufyan.

[Abu-Zayidah] Good morning.

[Friedman] Beyond their ceremonial value, do declarations denouncing terror imply any practical steps the

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Palestinian security services and police plan to take beginning today against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror?

[Abu-Zayidah] I believe the Palestinian ruling body is aware of the dangers inherent in the recent weeks' acts, particularly in what happened in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and the kidnapping. We realize that these acts were not directed against Israeli soldiers or civilians, but rather against the peace process, the peace agreement. We have unquestionably agreed to fight these acts.

[Dan] The question is what you mean by saying you will wage a struggle against these acts. Israel says implicitly that it wants to liquidate Hamas. London's THE OBSERVER even says that Rabin ordered the Hamas leaders to be liquidated. Do you share this objective?

[Abu-Zayidah] We certainly do not. We share the objective of finding and prosecuting every individual involved in such acts, but not of pursuing people who are not specifically connected with terror. Eliminate the Hamas leaders? Hamas has hundreds or thousands of leaders in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jordan.

[Dan] Should the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam leaders be eliminated?

[Abu-Zayidah] I think this is an Israeli responsibility, and the question is what Israel has done about the Hamas leaders in Jordan. There are Hamas leaders in Jordan. What is Israel doing about them?

[Friedman] You have been granted autonomy and most of the powers in Gaza, including policing and internal security. The leaders of the Hamas' military arm who live in Gaza should be hunted down in order to prevent acts before they occur, rather than be prosecuted after the fact.

[Abu-Zayidah] I think we are making every effort to prevent the recurrence of past events, and even the Hamas fugitives in Gaza know there is a red line they must not cross.

[Dan] Help us understand what you mean by saying that the PLO is taking iron handed action against Hamas terror emanating from Gaza.

[Abu-Zayidah] As Palestinians, we must make everyone understand that we control the situation in our territory. We need to prevent terrorist attacks, even more so for ourselves, but also for the peace process. We have to show that we control the area and that we will not permit any subversive activities.

[Dan] My question is what action you are going to take against the Hamas terrorists. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will blow up their houses, make arrests, and so forth. What will the PLO do?

[Abu-Zayidah] In Gaza? Surely we do not have as much elbowroom as the IDF. We can neither blow up houses nor liquidate people, but we can detain and prosecute.

[Friedman] Yesterday a Hamas leader in Nabulus came out with a statement proposing that the two sides converse and avoid harming Jews. Do you think the idea of a dialogue with Hamas stands a chance? Will they then stop killing and attacking?

[Abu-Zayidah] Yes, because I know that not all Hamas members are the same. I have been saying all along that it is possible. The reason we have been holding talks and avoiding clashes with them is that we know there is a good chance of achieving it. Let me ask you: How come there are millions of fundamentalists in Egypt, who are involved in acts of violence against civilians and tourists?

[Friedman] The question is whether the Hamas political leadership can control the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, or whether these guys do just as they please.

[Abu-Zayidah] It is true that there is no logistical connection between them, but 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam definitely submits to their spiritual and political guidance; they definitely have an impact.

[Dan] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, thank you very much.

[Abu-Zayidah] Thank you.

Border Closure Seen as Threat to Peace Process

MS2410103394 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 24 Oct 94 p 4

[Report by Julian Ozanne: "Gazans Struggle in the Wake of Border Closure"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hisham al-'Absi usually plasters walls in Israel but yesterday he was in a pool hall in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Like 25,000 other Palestinians living in Gaza, he has been unable to work since Israel closed the borders of Gaza and the West Bank last Wednesday in retaliation for a bus bombing by Islamic militants which left 21 Israelis dead.

The closure, which Israel has threatened to make indefinite to separate Arabs from Jews, will cripple Gaza's economy and undermine efforts by the Palestinian authority and international donors to demonstrate to Palestinians that there is an economic benefit from peace.

The move also has serious implications for the fragile political stability of Mr Yasir 'Arafat's authority. The continuing failure of the Palestinian authority to meet expectations for economic benefits plays into the hands of the Islamic opposition.

"Nobody can predict what will happen. It is a very fragile time in terms of stability," said Mr Nabil Abu-Irdayna, an senior adviser to Mr 'Arafat. "Without economic advancement, without jobs, without investments the situation is very dangerous because the peace process means nothing to the ordinary Palestinian—no results."

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Migrant labour remains the backbone of the Gaza economy and PLO officials have condemned the closure as an "economic war" on Palestinians. The Palestinians from Gaza who normally work in Israel sustain extended families who, even in good times, live close to the poverty line. Their income supports hundreds of small shops and businesses. In an economy where unemployment can be as high as 50 per cent and annual per capita income is around $800, the loss of this vital source of earnings is devastating.

According to Mr Alex Pollock, a United Nations economist, the immediate effect on small businesses is a break down in the credit system and the economy moves to a cash-only basis. Businesses have to lay off local workers, exacerbating unemployment.

Furthermore the closure makes its difficult for Gaza to export to Israel and reduces the tax, value added tax and customs revenue base of the Palestinian treasury. Mr Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian "minister" for planning and international co-operation, said the closure also sends negative signals to investors and tourists.

"The closure creates an extreme form of anxiety among investors and gives the feeling that anything can happen," Mr Sha'th said. "It destroys trust and confidence and deals a heavy blow to our prosperity, stability, credibility and viability."

Palestinians have developed survival mechanisms during previous Israeli closures ranging from borrowing money from extended family members to selling electronic goods and gold saved for dowry payments. But successive closures have eroded the coping mechanisms.

The crisis could have been less acute if the PLO and international donors had got the emergency economic programme off the ground. The World Bank has released less than 10 per cent of $720m emergency funding promised for 1994. The Bank blames the PLO for lack of transparency, accountability and division of responsibility among competing economic ministers. The PLO blames the Bank for excessive bureaucracy and what it calls "donor fatigue, myopia and arterial sclerosis". The only real job creating programmes have been $52m of projects in education and health carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and a Gaza clean-up campaign funded by Japan and the European Union which created 3,000 jobs.

Donors and PLO officials hope Israel will start to ease the closure soon. But this time it might be different. Mr Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli prime minister, has spoken of a possible formal and permanent separation of Arabs and Jews—a negation of the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements which foresees increasing economic integration and the continuing presence of Jewish settlers in Palestinian areas.

The Israeli cabinet yesterday formally agreed 19,000 new permits for foreign workers to replace Palestinian migrant workers. The new permits bring Israel's foreign work force, mainly from Eastern Europe and Asia, to 53,000 and consolidate Israeli moves to lessen its dependence on the Palestinian workforce.

Every time Israel lifts a closure it whittles down the Palestinian work force. In 1987 80,000 Palestinians from Gaza were working in Israel. At the time of the Gulf War the figure was down to 56,000. Since 1993 Israel has unofficially set the Gaza migrant work force at 20,000-25,000.

Israel's policy of labour substitution will have severe economic effects. International and local economists agree that economic growth in Gaza will depend, at least for five years, on continued migrant labour to Israel. Permanent closure of borders would cause a massive economic slump and force Gazan integration into the much poorer Egyptian economy.

Mr Sha'th said if Israel really wants separation it should remove Israeli settlements, define borders and allow Palestinians to have their own state in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. "Separation means independence but what we have at the moment is separation with occupation which doesn't make any rational sense," he said. "Either we must choose separation or marriage which means continuing the peace process and economic integration. The closure is like marriage but with wife beating."

Israel has consistently said it wishes Palestinian self-rule to be an economic success. The Jewish state knows the dangers of growing poverty and extremism on its borders. Israeli ministers are fond of saying "The only good neighbours are prosperous neighbours". But a prolonged closure increases economic desperation, defeats donor efforts and erodes the fragile credibility and legitimacy of Mr 'Arafat in the eyes of his own people.

'Arafat Says 'Next Battle' for Jerusalem

NC2110160294 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 21 Oct 94

[By Hisham Abdallah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Oct 21 (AFP)—The Palestinian dispute with Jordan over Israeli-held Jerusalem has erupted into the open with a warning from PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the battle for the holy city is imminent.

"The next battle will be for Jerusalem," 'Arafat said bluntly. "They think it is far off, but we think it is very near."

He urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn to recognise the holy city as the "capital of Palestine."

"Listen to me Husayn and Rabin," said a heated 'Arafat on Thursday [20 October], referring to the Jordanian monarch by name for the first time since the row flared in July.

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"Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, no matter what (treaties) have been signed in Amman or elsewhere."

Correspondents said they had seldom seen 'Arafat in such a rage.

He said he was claiming for "the Palestinian people the earthly and spiritual powers" over the holy city.

The Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza described the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, which will be signed on Wednesday, as a "flagrant" violation of the autonomy deal.

The treaty recognises Jordan's "historic role" in administering the Moslem places in the city, which include the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and al-Madinah in Saudi Arabia.

That echoed the July 25 declaration ending a state of war between the two neighbours which ignited Palestinian fears.

However negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories and Jerusalem are not due to begin until May 1996.

The Palestinians are deeply worried that the continued Jordanian hold on Jerusalem will work against their own claim to at least share the holy city as a capital with Israel.

When Jordanian and Palestinian ministers met in Amman earlier this month the religious dispute dominated but no solution was agreed, officials said. Harsh words were reportedly exchanged.

Jordan has sought to play down the dispute.

"I do not think it is a matter of a struggle," Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said in Amman.

The Jordanian government conceded religious authority in the West Bank to the Palestinians at the end of September.

Some 1,200 employees out of 2,000 were transferred to the Palestinian payroll after the Authority appointed a minister for religious affairs and the Waqf, the institute which manages Moslem sites.

The Palestinian Authority has allocated 650,000 dollars a month to cover wages.

About 800 people remained as Jordanian employees in the holy city, where King Husayn, a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, has determined to keep a foothold.

But that was far from the end of the affair.

When the octogenarian Jerusalem mufti, Shaykh Sulayman J'abari, died last week, Jordan appointed a successor only for 'Arafat to announce his own man hours later.

Jerusalem now has two Moslem spiritual chiefs for the first time in history.

Palestinian sources said the Jordanian appointee has received threats warning him not to try to take office.

And the Palestinian press has reported that about a dozen Waqf employees have been sent into early retirement, including Shaykh Ekramah Sabri, 'Arafat's mufti.

At the Waqf headquarters in Jerusalem, officials maintained a stony silence.

The Hashemite dynasty which rules Jordan can claim historic connections with the holy city.

It paid for the upkeep of the sites as well as the not inconsiderable salaries—17 million dollars annually—after losing control of Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war.

The Waqf runs 950 mosques on the West Bank mosques, and 180 in the Jerusalem region as well as schools, charitable and social institutions.

Since the British created Transjordan in 1946, the monarchy had held Jerusalem firmly in its grip. King Husayn witnessed the murder of his grandfather King 'Abdallah at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in 1952.

Al-Husayni on Dispute With Jordan Over Jerusalem

JN2110195594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1750 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Interview with Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni, by Salim Badawi; date and place not given, from "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Husayni] We say that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state; therefore, the capital and everything in it are Palestinian. Based on this, we say to Israel that it has no right to decide who has and who has not [a right in Jerusalem]. This is a purely Palestinian affair. When the Palestinians decide that there is any kind of relation with Jerusalem for a country like Jordan, this will be a Palestinian-Jordanian affair, in which Israel has no right to interfere.

[Badawi] Then you think that Israel has certain objectives through untimely raising this subject as you say?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, Israel has two objectives. The first is to sow seeds of division between us and Jordan, and to change the Jerusalem issue from a political issue into a religious one, on which talk will be restricted to holy shrines. [passage omitted]

[Badawi] The Palestinian leadership took its new difference with Jordan to the United Nations, and demanded amending the text of peace (?agreement) Jordan reached with Israel. For example, [PLO UN Representative] Nasir al-Qudwah considered what he described as the

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deal with Jordan on Jerusalem an interference in the future negotiations on Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] In fact, this was the Israeli expression when the Israelis said that their negotiations with the Palestinians will give a Jordanian role priority in the holy places. Even if Jordan has such a desire, we hoped that the talk on this subject would have been held with us and not with the Israelis.

[Badawi] Was it necessary to move the difference on the supervision on the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem to the Untied Nations? Was there no possibility to solve this question and this misunderstanding with the Jordanians?

[Al-Husayni] Regrettably, coordination between us and Jordan—which we used to call for—has never been carried out in a sound manner. Here, I do not blame a certain party, but this is the reality. [passage omitted]

[Badawi] Within the framework of this new difference, there were developments concerning religious authority in Jerusalem. Jordan appointed a new mufti for Jerusalem, and the Palestinian leadership also appointed a mufti. In your opinion what are the negative implications of having more than one mufti for Jerusalem? I mean what are the negative effects of this duplication in the religious authority in Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] It is an unhealthy situation, although such a situation has existed in certain historical stages when more than one mufti was present in the same place, but this is an unhealthy situation, and we wish this had not happened and that this subject had been coordinated between the two sides that are present in the arena. [passage omitted]

'Arafat-Appointed Mufti Assumes Duties

JN2210201694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sa'id Sabri, the mufti of Jerusalem, began carrying out his duties at the mufti's office in the holy city.

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the National Authority, appointed Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sabri as mufti of Jerusalem to succeed the late mufti, Sulayman al-Ja'bari.

PA To 'React Sharply' to Jordanian 'Interference'

TA2310134294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israel-Jordan peace agreement has caused great tension in Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The Palestinians are planning to stage protests in the West Bank over the next few days in anticipation of Wednesday's [26 October] signing ceremony. Yoni Ben-Menahem, our correspondent in the territories, spoke with Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of the security services in the West Bank:

[Begin recording] [Al-Rujub] Look, we do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country; on the other hand, we will not permit anybody to interfere in our own domestic affairs. I think that the mandate given by Israel to Jordan over the Jerusalem holy sites is primarily a violation of an agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government. It is also interference on the king's part in our affairs. We will react sharply, because it is an absolutely unacceptable situation; East Jerusalem belongs to the Palestinian people, and nobody is entitled to give a mandate to Husayn or anybody else. The agreement between us and Israel stipulates that the negotiations over Jerusalem are to be delayed for the next stage.

[Ben-Menahem] Jibril, yesterday Palestinian youths in East Jerusalem burned King Husayn's pictures. It is also said that the Palestinians intend to carry out a lot of protest acts against the Israel-Jordan agreement over the next week. What do you plan to do?

[Al-Rujub] Yesterday's events demonstrate our opposition to the agreement, which we regard as a resumption of King Husayn's mandate, whereas we believe he has no right whatsoever over Jerusalem or the West Bank. I am convinced that there is opposition and that there will be more acts in the future.

[Ben-Menahem] What precisely do you intend to do in the next week?

[Al-Rujub] It's not for me to decide what we will do. I told you there is tension on the ground as a result of the steps taken by Jordan. Take the mufti issue as an example: They have no right to appoint a Muslim mufti in the territories, but despite this 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali appointed a mufti. The Palestinian Authority [PA] for its part also appointed a mufti, who entered office yesterday and will continue serving. As far as we are concerned he is the official mufti.

[Ben-Menahem] Will the Palestinian security services make sure the mufti can do his job properly?

[Al-Rujub] There is no question of who will support him, because the entire Palestinian nation supports the mufti appointed by the PA. There is no room for the Jordanian Government's appointment. They can take their appointee to serve as a mufti in Jordan, but not in Jerusalem, Hebron, or anywhere else. [end recording]

Council Discusses Closure, Jordan-Israel Pact

JN2210205694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Oct 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has announced that President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Cairo next Wednesday, describing the meeting as very important.

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This came after the Council of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority held a meeting in Gaza today under President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the National Authority [NA].

During this weekly meeting, the ministers discussed last week's political developments and the resulting events. They also touched on the domestic situation, the effect of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, and the NA's position toward it.

Minister Sha'th also asserted that he would meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Cairo tomorrow, that a trilateral meeting with the Egyptian president would be held, and that the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee would also meet. Minister Sha'th will head the Palestinian delegation while Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will head the Israeli delegation.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that he was authorized by the NA Government to deal with the issues to be put forth during this important meeting.

Palestinian Minister of Economy Ahmad Quray' also said: We categorically reject any punishments in the NA-controlled areas, stressing that the cause of security is sacred to everybody. The minister added that the NA has succeeded in creating stability and security despite all the difficulties it is facing.

Regarding the closure by Israel of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] said that the security blockade violates all the principles of the agreement and called for lifting it. He also referred to the difficult problem of finding jobs for the workers—a problem that the NA has inherited from the occupation. He stressed the need to exert efforts on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels to solve this problem.

Finance Minister Zuhdi al-Nashashibi also asserted that starting with construction and infrastructure projects would inevitably reduce unemployment. He added that the Council of Ministers decided to urge donor countries to extend financial support rapidly so that infrastructure projects can be implemented.

Further on Meeting

JN2310075394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday presided over the Palestinian National Authority's weekly cabinet meeting. The cabinet discussed the serious political and economic repercussions of the Israeli Government's decision to close the borders with the Palestinian Authority territories and the impact of this decision on the living conditions of the Palestinian citizens.

The cabinet also reviewed the Israeli measures aimed at tightening control over these territories in violation of the agreement and pledges of free passage through crossings.

It was decided to immediately contact the cosponsors of the peace process and to send a memorandum in this regard to the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization calling on them to shoulder their responsibilities.

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Algeria

Two Spanish Nuns Murdered in Algiers

LD2310202694 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Now we hear from Madrid details on a tragedy that has occurred in Algeria. Two Spanish nuns, sisters Esther and Caridad, have been murdered in the Bab-El-Oued quarter of Algiers. They carried out social work there. They were attacked by armed men today, according to sources in the Spanish Embassy in Algeria.

A number of Spanish nuns, including sisters Esther and Caridad, suffered this attack, by suspected Islamic extremists. Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana has confirmed that one of the Augustine missionary nuns has died. The condition of the other is unknown. Esther Paniagua and Caridad Alavrez had been living in the quarter, a stronghold of fundamentalism, for over 30 years. A few moments ago we managed to talk to one of the representatives of the Augustine missionaries here in Madrid:

[Begin recording of unidentified representative] Esther Panigua and Caridad Alvarez were coming from mass and were in a group; the two were not alone. It was a group of sisters, four or five, and they were hit by a bullet. We know no more. That is the information we have. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Nuns Reportedly Received Threats

LD2410110294 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Spanish Embassy in Algeria is organizing the repatriation of the bodies of the two Augustinian missionary nuns murdered in Algiers. The two Spanish nuns, Esther Paniagua and Maria Alvarez, known as Sister Caridad, died yesterday evening from shots which hit them as they were coming out of Holy Mass and going to their residence in the Bab-El-Oued quarter, a fundamentalist stronghold.

The two nuns had been threatened on many occasions by the GIA—the Armed Islamic Group—because of their humanitarian work in a hospital where Algerian policemen and servicemen who were victims of GIA attacks received treatment. In spite of the advice of the Spanish Embassy and of their own province to leave Algeria, the two nuns decided to remain in the country despite the risk they were running.

GIA Claims Responsibility for Killing Technicians

LD2310193994 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The weekly toll is very high in Algeria—the security forces say they have killed 86 members of armed groups.

The newsletter of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] today claimed responsibility for the attack against a hydrocarbon exploitation site on 19 October in the Aures mountains and the killing of two technicians, one French and the other Italian, who worked for the company Schlumberger in the Aures for SONATRACH.

Security Services 'Eliminate' 'Terrorists'

47 'Terrorists' Killed

LD2210194594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said today that they were able to eliminate 47 terrorists between Friday and Saturday in Chlef, Skikda, Guelma, Tipaza, Bouira, Medea, Blida, Jijel, Boumerdes, and Mostaganem. The security forces were able to recover a quantity of weapons and ammunition following these operations.

17 'Terrorists' Killed

LD2310200494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services stated today that between Monday [17 October] and Saturday they managed to kill 17 terrorists in Algiers, Sidi Bel Abbes, Jijel, and Oran. During theses operations they managed to recover a quantity of weapons.

The security services also said Chaib Mohamed Arezki, the prosecutor of the republic court in Tigzirt in Tizi Ouzou Province, was found dead from a knife wound in Bir Ziane in Boumerdes Province. The same sources said the victim had been kidnapped on the same day along the national highway No 24 linking Tigzirt with Dellys, where he resided.

FIS: 'Deadline Nearing Its End'

MM2110155394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Algeria: Salvation Front Says: 'Deadline for Solution Nearing End']

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—An Algerian source close to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has set a "deadline for implementing the agreement" between Algerian authorities and the Front's leadership. The source pointed out that the agreement stipulates that the latter be enabled to hold meetings with its various cadres in armed or political action to study the possibility of agreeing on a peaceful solution to the crisis in which all parties participate, including the armed Islamic groups.

The source, who declined to go into details of the "agreement" between the Front and the authorities, said that the "deadline is nearing its end." He added that the cheikhs are prepared to "return to prison, instead of

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bearing responsibility for the murder of thousands of people while the authorities continue to claim that they are seeking dialogue."

Meanwhile, a FIS official has described the current situation in Algeria as "the worst situation the country has experienced since the repression began three years ago." The official, who asked to remain anonymous and whom AL-HAYAH contacted in the Algerian capital, added: "What is certain now is that nothing is left of the optimism that followed the cheikhs' release. Everything is over. The clique is refusing to implement what was agreed, and everything has moved backward."

He pointed to a serious security escalation on which the authorities are embarking, and to a "sharp rise" in the number of civilians killed on charges of collaborating with the armed groups. He spoke about the "destruction or burning of more than 160 mosques and places of worship," most of them around Skikda. He described that as "a deliberate action aimed at destroying mosques and insulting the people." He said that the freed cheikhs have begun to worry about their own safety. He stressed that "they have reduced their public activities, especially as the authorities have not reduced their violence, to enable us to return matters to normal and begin to contact the various quarters interested in resolving the crisis, including the brother mujahidin."

He denied that the cheikhs had pledged that the armed groups would halt violence in return for their release. He said that the authorities attribute to the Front "what it did not say or agree upon." He stressed that "violence cannot be halted from one side, and we do not believe that the authorities are legitimate or have the right to confront what it terms terrorism. We believe that it is the authorities which are exercising terrorism and usurping a government that does not belong to it while it continues to detain the Front's leaders and deputies elected by the majority of the Algerian people in free elections."

He said that the cheikhs left prison with the aim of looking for a legitimate solution. "They are not working for it singlehandedly, but they enjoy the support of all the Front's elements. The foundation of this solution is to refer the matter to the people, hence to the FIS, which won a majority vote. If that happens, the current authority will lose its legitimacy—something it rejects."

On the Algerian Army he said: "The Army is no longer a national element. And the Front is not happy with what is happening. But the eradicationist wing is influential inside the regime." He stressed that the Front is willing "to discuss everything with the Army, provided the clique acknowledges the illegitimacy of the annulment of the elections and the transfer of power."

He said contacts—which he described as limited—have been made with the leaders of the secret front and the mujahidin, but he declined to reveal their details. As is known, the most prominent of FIS leaders who are still engaged in secret action are Cheikhs Mohamed Said and Abdelrazak Radjam. But their affiliation to the "Algerianization" group, which is independent from the FIS framework, and Said's announcement of his joining the Armed Islamic Group, whose line is different ideologically from that of the FIS and rejects dialogue, has complicated the relationship between them and the FIS and its leaders. It is noted that Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission is still operating independently from the FIS frameworks present in Germany and Britain. [passage omitted]

Official Reemphasizes Support for Sahrawis

LD2310204894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2000 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The solidarity and support action by Algeria for the struggle for independence of the Saharan people was warmly welcomed by all the delegations present from 21-23 October in Antwerp in northern Belgium, where the 20th European Conference of Committees Supporting the Saharan People has just been taking place. The support given by Algeria to the Saharan cause is part of its well understood policy aimed at completing decolonization, the policy of the fight for right, and of the struggle for human rights and the rights of peoples, said Mr. (Dani Benshahash), charge d'affaires at the Algerian Embassy in Belgium, who spoke at the closing session today, reasserting Algeria's commitments.

Egypt

Musa Meets Arab, Foreign Press in London

NC2110171594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 21 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called on Israel and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to observe self-restraint, warning that a reaction on the part of either Israel or Hamas will have a negative effect on the regional peace process. He underlined the need to put an end to such acts.

In a meeting with the Arab and British press in London today, Musa expressed his belief that the pace of the regional peace process must be accelerated, particularly between the Palestinians and Israelis. He added that Palestinian elections must be held immediately and in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, irrespective of who does or does not take part in these elections.

'Amr Musa warned against a halt on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace process, noting that such a halt would give extremists from both sides an opportunity to undermine the peace process.

Musa stressed the need for enhancing the credibility of Yasir 'Arafat as chairman of the Palestinian Authority [PA], adding that this should involve economic and

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political support to make the Palestinians feel that things have changed in their favor.

The Egyptian foreign minister called for stepping up the pace of the Palestinian-Israeli talks on holding the Palestinian elections immediately and advocated proceeding from the "Gaza-Jericho First" stage to the next stage, as agreed upon by the two sides. Musa pointed out the need to restrain extremists, both from Hamas and the Israeli settlers, and to contain terrorism in all its forms.

On the World Bank's [words indistinct] for the donor states, Musa pointed out that Yasir 'Arafat [words indistinct] the obstacle [words indistinct]. Musa added: I do not lay all the blame on the Israeli side, because the Israeli Government has done much and made positive contributions. However, it was more [word indistinct] and had many doubts and did not help 'Arafat the way it should help a partner in the peace process. Musa noted that he will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo on Sunday to discuss the issue of cooperation with the PA, adding that he will telephone him today from London.

Musa stressed the need for Israel to respect the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, noting that there is a Palestinian Authority which must be responsible for security and for searching for the perpetrators of the recent events. He warned against overreaction by either side, something that could set the peace process back at a time when it is essential to maintain its momentum. He added that 'Arafat may be right in describing the Israeli measures as mass punishment, because Israel is Israel and the occupied territories are Palestine.

Musa ruled out the possibility of a link between Hamas and the extremists in Egypt. He pointed out that Hamas' reasons in the occupied territories for rejecting the peace process are different from those of the very few who reject it in Egypt. Those few receive financial support from external sources, which he declined to name.

Referring to the Israeli measures of closing the West Bank and Gaza, Musa warned that these measures could lead to an economic catastrophe for the Palestinians. He pointed out that at the political level, it is natural that there be borders between Israel and the Palestinian territories. [passage indistinct]

The foreign minister stressed that the future of the Damascus Declaration is contingent upon the collective performance of the signatories. Musa underlined the significance of this Declaration at the Arab and Gulf level. 'Amr Musa noted that Egypt had drawn up a draft agreement for the Damascus Declaration's eight member states on how to deal with the deteriorating situation in the Arab world. He pointed out that the draft has its own political and economic components which would help all the Arab League members. Continuing, the foreign minister said that the Damascus Declaration's committee of experts will meet to discuss the draft in depth over the next three weeks, noting that Syria fully approves of and supports these proposals.

Responding to a question about the seriousness of the situation in the Gulf, 'Amr Musa said that Saddam Husayn's recent moves are almost over, but the issue of Gulf security is still pending. It is an important issue, Musa added. He said: We cannot discuss the issue of Gulf security in isolation from the general security situation in the region, because the 1990-91 events cannot be forgotten. Therefore, we must take these events into consideration in order to avoid their recurrence.

To another question about the agreements Kuwait has ratified with the West, including the United States and Britain, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said these agreements are not bad to confront certain challenges for a specific period of time. But the security situation and dialogue over the security situation in the region must be an inter-Arab affair in the first place.

'Amr Musa voiced Egypt's conviction that recognition of the state of Kuwait and its borders and implementing the UN Security Council resolutions are conditions that Iraq must meet. Saddam Husayn has made the issue of lifting sanctions on Iraq quite difficult. He said that overthrowing Saddam Husayn or reducing his powers are matters left to the Iraqi people. But we must take all precautions to prevent Saddam from threatening Kuwait's security. Musa stressed the need for Saddam Husayn to announce his official recognition of Kuwait's territorial integrity, noting that this is an indisputable issue. Unless Saddam responds to these demands, the international community will not be able to determine the next step, 'Amr Musa added.

Commenting on Arab-Iranian relations, 'Amr Musa said: We have numerous ties with Iran but they are the subject of constant contention. However, positive points in these ties that are capable of bringing our views and theirs closer to each other far outnumber the negative points. Musa remarked that if Iran changes its policy on the Arab Gulf and the three UAE islands, that will be a sign of good intentions. He noted that the dialogue between Egypt and Iran is continuing, but Egypt holds firmly to its positions.

Regarding the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli ties, the foreign minister said that these ties are now much better than before. He pointed out that the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles contributed enormously to the strengthening of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Musa told the reporters that President Yasir 'Arafat knows very well how important the elections in the self-rule areas are. Musa said that these elections are not a mere option but a step linking the Declaration of Principles' first and second stages. Unless this step is accomplished, it will not be possible to move on to the other stages of the Declaration. Musa pointed out that 'Arafat is very enthusiastic about these elections and will come out a winner in them. Musa affirmed that these elections are the way to achieve Palestinian self-determination.

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Regarding the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, 'Amr Musa said that the Jordanian king, government, and public accept this agreement so Egypt has no comment to make about this agreement unless it touches on the Jerusalem issue, in which case Egypt will make its views known. He explained that with regard to the issue of the Jordanian-Israeli border, the Jordanians have the right to make their own decisions.

Asked about the situation in Algeria, Musa said that he had discussed this with members of the Algerian government and they told him that more time is needed to solve the crisis. Musa said he hopes there will be a breakthrough in Algeria sometime soon.

Concerning the situation in Sudan, the foreign minister said the Sudanese people are still preoccupied with the reactions to the extradition of the international terrorist Carlos to France. Noting that disagreements between the two countries continue, Musa said that he met with the Sudanese foreign minister twice in New York and discussed with him several subjects dealing with Egyptian-Sudanese relations. He reported that the dialogue between the two countries is continuing.

'Amr Musa added that the Sudanese are frequently accused of causing trouble outside Sudan and many countries are unhappy about Sudan's positions. The foreign minister did not think it likely that the Sudanese regime has a hand in the occurrences that occasionally happen in Upper Egypt, noting that these events have various causes.

Continuing his talk with the members of the press in London, the foreign minister spoke about the Muslim Brotherhood, a movement whose appearance goes back to the late 1920's. He referred to the waves of terrorist acts in Egypt in that era, when the Brotherhood carried out assassination attempts against Egyptian heads of government and other Egyptian leading personalities. He noted, however, that the Muslim Brotherhood never won the Egyptian public's support because the Egyptian people have their own intrinsic character.

Musa added that coexistence among various Egyptian sects is an accomplished fact and that groups that try to cause trouble, with the assistance of certain circles, represent a mere minority. He affirmed that the government is capable of controlling them and that Egyptian society is stronger than those groups and disavows them.

On another matter, 'Amr Musa reported that U.S. President Bill Clinton will visit Egypt next week after visiting Damascus. He said Clinton will discuss numerous issues during his visit to Egypt, including the general regional situation, recent events in the Gulf, the peace operation and the prospects of developing it further, Egyptian-U.S. ties, and the very vital issue of the success of Egypt's economic reform program.

At the conclusion of his meeting with the reporters, the foreign minister spoke of the success of the UN Conference on Population and Development which was held in Cairo, noting that the entire Egyptian nation and its institutions contributed to that success. He asserted that Egypt is able to host and administer such major international conferences. He noted that the conference greatly contributed to enlightening the people about the importance of family planning.

Peres Arrives in Cairo, Meets With Mubarak

NC2310110294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 Aug 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Cairo at noon today on a visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Peres will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority and chief Palestinian negotiator.

The talks will deal with the latest developments on the Palestinian negotiating track and the efforts being made to boost the peace process.

Musa and Peres are expected to hold a new conference at the Foreign Ministry at the conclusion of their talks.

[In a Cairo-datelined report at 1045 GMT on 23 October, MENA reports that President Mubarak received the Israeli foreign minister at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis.]

Musa Receives Jordanian Invitation to Treaty Signing

NC2210165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has received an official invitation from the Jordanian Government to attend the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli accord on Wednesday. The invitation was conveyed by Jordan's Ambassador in Cairo Nayif al-Qadi who was received by the foreign minister today. The Jordanian ambassador said Musa accepted the invitation. He added that he and the foreign minister discussed Egyptian-Jordanian relations, noting the need to advance these relations.

The Jordanian ambassador said Jordan's King Husayn, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will attend the ceremony marking the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli accord. He added that Jordan had not invited heads of state to attend the ceremony, only foreign ministers.

On the tension between Israel and the Palestinians, the Jordanian ambassador said his country is against any escalation of the situation by any side so that tension will not affect the efforts to advance the peace process.

He said the U.S. President's tour of the regional states confirms the United States' commitment to the peace

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process and to the efforts by President Clinton personally to make these efforts succeed.

On Iran's threat against countries that sign peace treaties with Israel, he said: What we did in Jordan was the essence of Jordan's sovereignty and interest. No one will dissuade us; we receive instructions from no one on things involving our sovereignty over our land because we do not accept anyone's intervention in our internal affairs and allow no criticism of Jordan.

Musa: Jerusalem's Future Subject of Final Talks

NC2210192394 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On the question of Jerusalem in the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa spoke to MBC about Egypt's views in this regard. Musa said that the agreement is binding to its two signatories only and that the question of Jerusalem has not yet been raised for a final settlement, adding that the place to raise this matter is the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating table. Musa added:

[Begin recording] [Musa] The question of Jerusalem is too broad a subject to concern Jordan and Israel alone. In addition, to be fair to Jordan, Jordan has not entered into a discussion of the final status of Jerusalem, but only talked about the sacred sites. There is a disagreement. It is a source of discord among Arab, or some Arab, and Islamic states. However, we cannot criticize Jordan for something it has not done—namely, that it has not entered into a discussion about the final sovereignty over Jerusalem. This issue remains to be settled, since Jerusalem will be subject to negotiations in the final stage talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. So Jordan talked about one aspect of the problem of Jerusalem. As for the remaining aspects, they are left to the final negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, who are the two parties basically and directly concerned with this problem.

[Unidentified correspondent] Does that mean, Mr. Minister, that the problem of Jerusalem—or Jerusalem—is a source of disagreement, not dispute?

[Musa] Look; these questions are not beneficial. Whether it is a disagreement, a dispute, a brawl, or otherwise, Jerusalem has not yet been raised and there is no final agreement on it. Call it a disagreement, a dispute, or any other name you like.

[Correspondent] When I mentioned a disagreement or dispute I meant in international terms and did not mean to play on words.

[Musa] No, no. It is a dispute, there is no doubt about that. It is a legal dispute, a dispute over sovereignty, a political dispute, and a dispute from various aspects. But Jerusalem is a subject to be discussed in the final negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. At that time, Israel can make whatever claims it wants and the Palestinians can present whatever proposals they want to present, and others too can do the same thing. What the Jordanians and Israelis have agreed upon is a matter that concerns the two of them; and this agreement is not binding to anyone else. [end recording]

Musa Welcomes Clinton's Visit, Praises Ties

NC2210110194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Egypt, which will begin on Wednesday [26 October] morning as a part of a tour of the Middle East.

In a statement made today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described the visit as very important, affirming that the United States is a friend of Egypt, a superpower with a major role in the ongoing Mideast peace process along the various tracks, and Egypt's partner in economic development.

Musa added that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Bill Clinton will address several important issues, including developments in the Middle East and the Gulf regions and bilateral ties.

The foreign minister pointed out that the active relations between Egypt and the United States will be reflected during this visit, the first by the U.S. President to the Middle East. The visit will begin in Egypt, with the U.S. President then going to Jordan, Israel, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Dailies View Clinton's Upcoming Visit

NC2410090694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Today's Cairo papers say that the tripartite meeting to be held in Cairo on Wednesday, grouping President Husni Mubarak, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, will be a good opportunity to boost the Middle East peace process. In their commentaries today the papers stress that the U.S. President's decision to choose Cairo as his first stop on his Middle East tour acknowledges Egypt's status and affirms the atmosphere of security and stability that Egypt enjoys.

AL-AHRAM notes that Egyptian-U.S. consultation at the start of every initiative or move helps the U.S. side explore its approach and shape its policies. This is because from a purely technical viewpoint, Egypt is not a direct party to the as yet unresolved conflicts, enjoys the confidence of its sisterly Arab states, and has long experience of dealing with Israel. This consultation, the paper adds, reassures the Arab parties and provides the necessary diplomatic and moral support they need.

The paper adds that choosing Cairo first has become an established diplomatic tradition in U.S. policy. This tradition shows U.S. diplomacy's farsightedness, in view

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of Egypt's important and influential role in the region. The paper notes that the U.S. President's regional tour seeks to strengthen the achievements already made on the road to peace and record more achievements.

In a similar commentary, AL-AKHBAR views the importance of the tripartite meeting in Cairo, which will provide a good opportunity for boosting the peace march in the region. The three leaders, Mubarak, Clinton, and 'Arafat, will discuss important topics that concern the world community, most importantly, establishing peace in the Middle East. Egypt continues to play a major role in this regard, a role that the world community has acknowledged in view of Egypt's political prudence and good relations with the various parties.

The paper adds that Clinton's choice of Egypt as his first stop on his regional tour highlights Egypt's standing in the world community, stability, and the atmosphere of security for which it stands out, not only among the Middle East countries, but among most Arab and eastern states. The delegations of 180 states participating in the population conference could attest to this.

The paper adds that Clinton's visit to Cairo will offer a good chance for discussing ways to strengthen Egyptian-U.S. relations and examining ways to promote constructive development and cooperation projects between the two countries. This relationship is getting stronger because of the mutual trust and friendship between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton since their first encounter.

Peace Process Said Best Response to 'Extremists'

NC2310065194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Aug 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that U.S. President Bill Clinton's Middle East tour and his meetings with Arab and Israeli leaders this week is meant to support friends and confront the enemies of peace. The paper notes in an editorial today that peace negotiations are moving forward at times and backward at others, allowing the enemies of peace to take advantage and mount suicide operations aimed at destroying peace efforts.

The paper refers to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's call on both Israel and Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] to demonstrate restraint, control acts of violence, and speed up the peace process. Only the extremists benefit from a halt to the peace efforts, the paper says, and the practical response to them is to speed up the achievement of peace on all levels, especially with Syria and Lebanon, and to deal objectively with the Palestinian Authority, whose success has been more than expected.

Musa on Casablanca Summit, Economic Cooperation

NC2210142394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Egypt plays an important role in the Israeli-Palestinian talks and noted Egypt's distinct role on other negotiation tracks.

Musa was addressing the opening session of AL-AHRAM's seminar on "The Casablanca Summit from an Egyptian Perspective."

He said Egypt will go to this summit as the biggest country in the Middle East. He added that it is illogical for Egypt's interests to be in conflict with Arab interests and that it is necessary for Egypt to play a leading role in such conferences in line with national interests.

He noted that various developments in regional economic cooperation will be discussed at the Casablanca summit but that this cooperation will not be implemented before a comprehensive and just peace has been established.

He said the concerned ministries in Egypt have prepared their concepts of economic cooperation and devised very serious and highly specialized projects. Musa said he had asked the Egyptian private sector to prepare a book on this subject to be added to the government's book so that the Egyptian stand will be complete.

Musa Receives Report on Ties With Sudan

NC2310162294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1519 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a report from Egyptian ambassador to Sudan Hasan Jad al-Haq. The report deals with Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Ambassador Jad al-Haq said after the meeting that 'Amr Musa has asked him to continue the discussions which Musa began with Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings.

British Tourist Killed; 3 Others Wounded

NC2310112594 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 23 (AFP)—A British tourist was killed and three other people wounded as suspected Islamic militants fired on a mini-bus near Luxor in southern Egypt on Sunday [23 October], police said.

The mini-bus was taking four Britons on a tour of sites on the west bank of the River Nile in Luxor, 700 kilometres (420 miles) south of Cairo. Two of the Britons along with the Egyptian driver were wounded.

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The attack took place on a dirt track leading from Luxor to Naqadah, where the tourists wanted to visit the temple of Dandarah, police said, without naming the dead and wounded.

The British embassy in Cairo also had no details. "There is a report of an incident in Upper Egypt. We are in contact with the local authorities," a spokesman said.

In the last attack on tourists, a German and two Egyptians were shot dead on September 27 in Egypt's Red Sea resort of al-Ghardaqah.

The latest death brings to 11 the number of tourists killed in Egypt since Islamic militants launched a campaign of violence to topple the government in March 1992. The campaign has claimed a total of more than 470 lives.

Victims Identified

NC2310141394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Oct 94

[All names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—An Interior Ministry source has stated that at 0930 today unidentified persons opened fire on mini-bus No. 11133 driven by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir, who was taking four British tourists on a road on the western bank of the River Nile in Qina. This road is not usually used by tourist buses. Moreover, the driver did not inform the police of his movements.

One British tourist, John Perez, was killed in the incident. Three other tourists and the driver were also wounded. The wounded were taken to the hospital for treatment. The wounded British tourists are Martina Morris, Mike Morris, and Mina Edwards.

Police investigators have gone to the scene of the incident. Security forces are conducting a search for the culprits.

Police Soldier Killed by Unidentified Gunmen

NC2210070194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Soldier 'Ibadah 'Abd-al-Muttalib Ibrahim, from the Naj' Hammadi police center in Qina Governorate, was killed by unidentified gunmen last night. A source in the Interior Ministry has stated that the soldier was martyred while standing guard at the Naj' Hammadi vegetable market. The area is being searched to apprehend the culprits and the murder weapon.

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces Mahfuz Attack

NC2110184994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Oct 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the attack against author Najib Mahfuz, a responsible source in the Muslim Brotherhood has made the following statement: "The Muslim Brotherhood, shocked by the attack against author Najib Mahfuz, reiterates its condemnation and denunciation of any act of aggression by any source or quarter against innocent blood and souls or against the security and stability of Egypt and its people. While praying to God Almighty to safeguard Egypt and its people and give all its citizens, both rulers and ruled, guidance, reason, and the ability to protect rights, trusts, and honor, the Muslim Brotherhood believes that logical and reasonable dialogue is the way to pursue one's rights by means of persuasion. It is the way to avoid slipping into sedition and dangers, which result in destruction and ruin, block the path toward true reforms, and ultimately obstruct the nation's renaissance and aspiration to build a society of love, fraternity, justice, security, and freedom."

Libya

Jallud Reportedly Banned From Travelling to Syria

NC2210092094 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 17 Oct 94 p 34

[From the News Market column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi banned 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud from travelling to Syria last week, even though he recently restored Jallud's title of Libya's second in command and his passport. Jallud remained out of sight for more than 10 months because of his differences with al-Qadhdhafi.

Paper Hails Tel Aviv Bombing as 'Courageous'

LD2110173794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 21 Oct, (JANA)—The daily AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR' [mouthpiece of the revolutionary committees] said in its editorial today that the recent fida'i operation in Tel Aviv has unmasked some of the brazen Arab faces which have shamelessly condemned such a fida'i act and portrayed it as terrorism at a time when the same people have stayed silent over the acts of terrorism and the deliberate killing which have been perpetrated by Zionists against Palestinian citizens.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR asserted that such a courageous operation was a logical reply and a blessed initiative because it came as a reply to the ugly scenes of cowering [by Arab regimes] and a practical reply to those who have abandoned their weapons to their enemy once their stamina has been weakened and their ranks shaken.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR added that the revolutionary Palestinian Arab citizen cannot lower himself to the level of Arab governments and betray his cause and abandon his homeland... Such a citizen cannot be trivial, neither

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can he use any language other than the language of those who wanted to recover their land and defend their honor.

'Arafat has wept over the Zionist settlers who died following the courageous bombing. He asked his pawns and his spokesmen to continue the mourning in his place and expressed his readiness to chase immediately those who carried out such a legitimate fida'i act.

Is it not stupid, if not teachery, that 'Arafat should become a curse chasing the revolutionaries, trying to catch them and tie their hands so as to stop them carrying out any further acts?

The newspaper said: This operation has exposed, just as previous ones have exposed and future ones will reveal, that when the Zionists and the West, in general, and America, in particular, place their bets on 'Arafat and make him endorse a phony peace, they are only practising frivolous play and charlatanism. The masses alone are the ones who can decide on such matters.

It is not important that 'Arafat hands over his pistol or removes the sole of his shoe, or speaks in surrendering tones if the masses refuse to give up [word indistinct], refuse to take off their military boots or to talk any other than fighting talk. The events prove the truth of our perceptions and our correct views on the victory of the will of the masses, despite repression, injustice and terrorism.

In its editorial the paper AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR [word indistinct] to say that those who condemn acts by the revolutionaries of the occupied territories are disloyal to the land, falsify the [word indistinct] of history, and reject Arab values and principles. They have stood openly and in broad daylight against the choices of the [Arab] nation. They have become a stumbling block preventing them [the revolutionaries] from attaining victory. They have become a scourge that must be wiped out if the Arab nation desires to advance and do [word indistinct]. Or if not they should go back to the history of jihad on this land. [as received]

Why do they not go back to the records and look through them so that they can learn about the volume of the criminal acts perpetrated by the Zionists against the Palestinian people—the massacres of Dayr Yasin, Bahr al-Baqar, Sabra and Shatila, the massacre of [word indistinct] etc. All of them were massacres beyond imagination in which hundreds were the victims of Zionist terrorism. In all of them the West, America, and some Arab rulers turned their backs on events and ignored them as if nothing had happened. The condemnation and criticism come only when the [word indistinct] is Zionist.

Are not these double standards in themselves sufficient for the revolutionaries of Palestine to escalate their fida'i operations and take revenge commensurate with the injustice which has befallen them. Yes, this is their right. This operation is part of a revenge which has not yet attained the volume of the injustice [suffered by Palestinians].

League Envoy Discusses UK Talks, Carlos, Iraq

MM2110140794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 94 p 4

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, Arab League representative, by Ashraf al-Faqiyy in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Faqiyy] What is behind the announcement of the resumption of the Libyan-British dialogue?

[Al-Bishari] The Lockerbie crisis has gone on for a long time. Many political analysts believe that the continuation of the crisis is no longer acceptable, particularly as it affects not only Libya but all the neighboring states, the states of the region, and the Mediterranean states as well as the interests of many states including some European states. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiyy] Will it be just a resumption of the security dialogue started by 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan ambassador to Tunisia, with some British security officials on the basis of which four subsequent sessions were held in Cairo and Geneva?

[Al-Bishari] It will be an open and wide-ranging dialogue and it will not be restricted to security matters. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiyy] What is the latest on the Arab League secretary general's efforts to promote the league's proposal made last March calling for the trial of the suspects by a Scottish court at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice?

[Al-Bishari] During the New York meeting of the seven-member Arab committee in charge of following up the Lockerbie issue it was agreed that the Jamahiriyah, through 'Umar al-Muntasir, its secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation (foreign minister), would send a message to [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid containing the agreement of suspects al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi to come under the authority and legal jurisdiction of the Arab League and to place themselves at the disposal of the Arab League secretary general, and also stating that 'Abd-al-Majid could hold the necessary negotiations with the parties concerned to enable them to go to the headquarters of the International Court of Justice in the Hague to face the Scottish judges and stand trial in accordance with Scottish laws.

If the suspects were found guilty, then the Jamahiriyah would undertake to pay compensations, but if they were acquitted, then the Arab League would undertake to

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return them to Libya. The message reaffirms our seriousness about having the trial take place. It is in implementation of Security Council resolution 731 and makes possible the trial called for by the parties to the crisis, namely the United States, France, and Britain.

Libya has sent that message and formula in the hope that the Arab League would hold the necessary negotiations with the parties concerned through the Arab seven-member committee consisting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union states, Egypt, and Syria.

[Al-Faqiyy] When was the message actually delivered?

[Al-Bishari] The message was delivered during my meeting with the Arab League secretary general last Saturday. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiyy] What about the Libyan opposition's charge that you supplied the French security authorities with some information which facilitated the capture of terrorist Carlos in Sudan?

[Al-Bishari] That is an honor I cannot claim.... Had I been in a position to contribute to the arrest of Carlos, I would have done so without delay, particulary as Carlos was a criminal, not a struggler, and he is wanted for trial in Libya on the charge of killing a Libyan national by the name of al-Azmarli during the kidnapping of the Arab oil ministers in Vienna. He is wanted for trial in Libya for that crime. I find it strange that the so-called opposition is unhappy about the arrest of the criminal Carlos, who committed numerous crimes. I wish the Libyan security organs had managed to arrest him and bring him to trial.

[Al-Faqiyy] Did Carlos have no links with the Libyan security organs?

[Al-Bisahri] No, Carlos was an agent of the former Soviet and East German intelligence services, and of the intelligence services of some Middle Eastern states including at least two Arab states. He was very hostile to Libya. Had we been able to arrest him, we would have done so without hesitation.

[Al-Faqiyy] How is that? It had been claimed that Carlos entered Libya several times.

[Al-Bishari] Carlos did not enter Libya. There was an attempt to have him enter Libya in September 1991 but that attempt failed. We distributed a file on that to the fraternal and friendly states.

[Al-Faqiyy] There has recently been a change in the Libyan security organ, with Musa Kusa replacing Yusuf al-Dibri. Does that change have any political significance?

[Al-Bishari] That change has no political significance. It came in the context of routine administrative measures carried out by the General People's Committee for Justice headed by Muhammad al-Hijazi.

[Al-Faqiyy] What effect have the recent Iraqi threats to Kuwait had on the Libyan call for an Arab summit conference, and is it not preferable to postpone that call until a more appropriate time?

[Al-Bishari] If the Arab summit were to wait for Arab conditions to improve, it would never be held, particularly as conditions in the Arab homeland are going from bad to worse. The concept of pan-Arab security has changed and the Arabs are now sharply divided.

What happened between Iraq and Kuwait was sad and regrettable. We announced our rejection of the Iraqi threats from the first moment. A basis must be found for changing that situation. Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi calls for a summit conference to be attended by whoever can attend. Unanimity is not a precondition. The aim is to promote reconciliation. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Minister: Iraq Must Comply 'Without Any Demands'

MM2110142594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Oct 94 p 5

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri and Sawsan Abu-Husayn: "Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Iraq Turned Down Kuwaiti Offer To Allow Import of Food; No Disagreements Among Damascus Declaration States"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Kuwait, Cairo—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has denied the existence of any disagreements among the Damascus Declaration states. And at another level he revealed that Iraq turned down a Kuwaiti proposal at the Security Council to allow Baghdad to obtain food and medicine.

Shaykh Sabah made his statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Kuwait and Cairo. He said that the decision not to send forces (from Egypt and Syria) had nothing to do with any disagreement; and that the role of the Damascus Declaration states had continued from the liberation of Kuwait until recently, when Kuwait's security was threatened, while the stage ahead would be a stage of consultation and further coordination. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti foreign minister revealed that Iraq had turned down a Kuwaiti proposal submitted to the Security Council to allow Iraq to obtain food and medicine.

He said: We do not object to the Iraqi people's obtaining food and medicine under a special authorization from the Security Council. On the Iraqi-Russian suggestion that Iraq's announcement of the implementation of the Security Council resolutions should coincide with a Kuwaiti pledge not to object to the lifting of the international embargo, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said: We pin no hopes on such promises. Iraq must first comply with all the Security Council resolutions without any demands; then we will announce our position in the light of the results of its international and Arab commitments.

Asked about the Iraqi withdrawal of the troops it had deployed far back from the border into Iraqi territory, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the Iraqi regime is not trusted: Adding to the effects of its brutal aggression in the summer of 1990, a few days ago it had returned to its threats.

He went on: So the Iraqi regime's aggressive and expansionist actions must be brought to an end. We are the victims of a treacherous aggression, and all we are demanding is Iraq's full implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

Shaykh Sabah stressed that Iraq had made a mistake when it opted for the policy of threats as a means of achieving the lifting of the embargo imposed on it. It would have been more appropriate to have complied with the Security Council resolutions, which would have achieved that for it.

He warned against the Iraqi regime's persistence in threatening the region's stability and security on the pretext of lifting the suffering from the Iraqi people, with whom we sympathize more than it does (that is, more than the regime sympathizes with them).

Information Minister on Crisis with Iraq

NC2210203094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1705 GMT 22 Oct 94

[Interview with Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by MBC correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit in Kuwait; date not given; from the "Face to Face" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Jazulit] Some say that the Iraqi forces don't have the combat capability to invade Kuwait. I believe there is a kind of consensus on this matter. All that happened was President Saddam Husayn carried out a maneuver and sent part of his forces, the so-called Republican Guard, to win the sympathy of the international community to ease the blockade. There is a kind of consensus that the Iraqi forces are not capable of invading Kuwait. Moroever, the Iraqi forces do not have the combat capability to enter Kuwait. Therefore, it appears that the United States exaggerated the issue for certain reasons. It was also noticed that in your statements to Arab and Western media, you emphasized that the Iraqi army wanted to invade Kuwait. How do you defend your point of view?

[Al-Sabah] We do not speak in a vacuum.

[Jazulit] There is no doubt about this.

[Al-Sabah] Look, at the end of July 1990 the Iraqi regime gave assurances to the Arab leaders who visited Kuwait that the presence of its forces on the Kuwaiti border was just a maneuver and that there was no intention of using force or invading Kuwait. The regime, however, did invade and occupy Kuwait. The same method was followed this time. It claimed that the presence of four divisions—two republican guard divisions and two regular army divisions—on the Kuwaiti border were to carry out an exercise. This was a lie and a deception.

The Iraqi Army was fully prepared. The intelligence reports were clear to us. The Iraqi Army moved with full ammunition supplies and fully equipped, and with all that is required of any military regime to carry out a military attempt to invade a certain state. It adopted the same measures it adopted in 1990. History repeated itself with slight differences. The talk that it cannot invade Kuwait because it does not have the military capability is not valid. Iraq mobilized over 80,000 soldiers on the Kuwaiti border. We were not prepared to confront this mobilization. Even if we were prepared in Kuwait, we could not have repulsed an Iraqi offensive of

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this size. Therefore, we acted quickly and contacted the allies to implement the joint defense pacts to deter Iraq. When it learned of this and this deployment movement took place quickly, the Iraqi regime realized it could not confront these forces.

The period 7 to 9 October was critical for Kuwait. We were really exposed to a second invasion and second occupation. Let the Kuwaiti and world public know—our policy is not to keep information secret—that Iraq had planned for a second invasion and occupation of Kuwait between 7 and 9 October. The dark cloud of 9 October lifted when the allied forces arrived. Iraq then revised its calculations. [passage omitted]

We have our own intelligence sources. We have our own sources of information from southern Iraq. There is no doubt about what Iraq's intentions were. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime cannot be trusted. The Iraqi regime possesses the military capability to carry out military operations threatening Kuwait's security and stability. It has several Republican Guard divisions. It also has several regular and popular army divisions.

For the past three years, we have been reiterating that Iraq is violating the UN Security Council resolutions. There are clear violations of the blockade on Iraq. There are those who are helping Iraq to break this blockade. How Iraq has been able? [sentence incomplete as heard].

[Jazulit] Who is helping Iraq to break the blockade?

[Al-Sabah] I will come to this later on. I will speak to you frankly.

[Jazulit] I hope you will do this.

[Al-Sabah] How has Iraq been able to recover militarily after Desert Storm, which destroyed over half of its army, especially the Republican Guard? How has Iraq been able to restore its military preparedness? How was Iraq able to move these divisions so quickly to the area? How has Iraq been able to obtain spare parts, ammunition, and weapons for its tanks, especially the T-72 tanks, and for the Iraqi Air Force?

We have been monitoring the situation. There were 600 air sorties in the flight-permitted zone of Iraq weekly. This is an average of 100 air sorties daily. From where did Iraq obtain the spare parts after most of the Iraqi planes had fled to Iran? Iraq has obtained more planes. There are open borders. There are arms merchants. We hope there will be a closure of the border and of the entry point to Iraq from which it can equip its military forces, just as the Turkish and Iranian borders were officially closed. This is in implementation of the Security Council resolutions. However, regrettably, the border is still open. Many pieces of equipment come. We know and monitor the quantities which arrive.

[Jazulit] From where?

[Al-Sabah] From west of Iraq; and you name the state you want to name.

[Jazulit] However, you have stated you will be frank with me.

[Al-Sabah] I tell you very frankly, from Jordan. The Jordanian-Iraqi border is still open. There is no control of the Jordanian-Iraqi border. We know that between 100 and 200 trucks cross this border daily. Only God knows what these trucks transport. They do not transport foodstuffs or medicine. We have clear information on this subject. There is a clear violation in this matter. We hope that all states adjacent to Iraq will adhere to the Security Council resolutions, close these borders, and impose a blockade. [passage omitted]

[Jazulit] Mr. Minister, in our coverage of the recent developments in the Kuwait-Iraq crisis, we, the MBC team, have been very interested in Kuwaiti public reaction to the events. At the same time, we sensed a sort of disgust from some citizens, and I repeat from some citizens, over the strong presence of U.S. forces. Some of these citizens believe that this extensive presence, particularly after the partial withdrawal of the Iraqi forces, is an attempt to absorb the resources and wealth of this country. What do you say to these people, who are of course Kuwaiti citizens? I feel I need to assure you that these things were told to me.

[Al-Sabah] I believe brother Tawfiq, that you have heard the voice of a minority, not the majority, in Kuwait. You have listened to a minority that is not fully informed about the danger that was threatening Kuwait and is still threatening Kuwait today. The mere presence of a few divisions on the Kuwaiti border constitutes a danger to the security and stability of Kuwait. Whoever makes such remarks does not realize the dangers. Those who say such things base their beliefs on money, but that is not the issue. The most important thing for us is the soil of this country, which we lost in 1990. We will never allow that situation to return again at any cost.

Our allies are sending their sons and daughters to defend Kuwait. If there is anyone in Kuwait talking about the issue of money, then that person has no understanding of the situation and does not appreciate the importance of the sanctity and independence of Kuwait. Money is a secondary issue for us. What we are interested in are land and country. When the Kuwaiti people were rendered homeless in 1990, money was no obstacle. We spent everything we had to retrieve Kuwait. Whoever now claims that this move is to exhaust Kuwait's funds is wrong.

[Jazulit] Regarding the presence of U.S. forces here on Kuwaiti territory, is their staying on or leaving Kuwait a Kuwaiti decision or a U.S. decision?

[Al-Sabah] It is a joint decision. These forces came at Kuwait's request . They came to implement the cooperation agreement on joint defence between Kuwait and

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the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, respectively. There are consultations between these countries. The decision, when taken, will be a joint decision by all sides when this crisis is over. Next week will be a crucial period for finding this formula. There might be some kind of special arrangements so that Iraq does not threaten Kuwait's stability and security once again. [passage omitted]

[Jazulit] There is a topic that merits our attention. We return to Kuwaiti public opinion and the issue of the expenses and the costs that will be paid to the international forces present in Kuwait. Could you explain to us how this will be handled, particularly now that it has become confirmed beyond a shadow of a doubt that this presence during a time of peace is costing millions of dollars? If a war does erupt, this figure will jump to double what it stands at now. Will the payments be made equally by all sides? What will Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries pay? And will the United States and Britain participate in payments, or is this just mere talk?

[Al-Sabah] Look, talk about this subject is a side issue of no importance. We have countries and forces that are ready to sacrifice their sons and daughters for the sake of Kuwait's stability and security. And then we talk about ...

[Jazulit, interrupting] But there are also Gulf forces, too, Mr. Minister.

[Al-Sabah] Yes, and Gulf forces, too. But you were talking about money. The Gulf countries do not talk about money. You mentioned the Allied countries. Our brothers in the Gulf countries have never failed to pay their share of the costs. This goes without saying. But with regard to the issue of what you were talking about regarding the other alliance countries who asked for contributions or sharing of the costs of these forces, I tell you that if they are ready to sacrifice their most cherished thing in life, their sons and daughters, in a war to preserve the security and stability of Kuwait. Should we hesitate over paying the financial commitments? The state is not unable to meet the costs of the alliance forces in Kuwait. We know that they are huge expenses, but we are ready to shoulder them for the sake of Kuwait and its security. [passage omitted]

[Jazulit] I would like to take advantage of this interview with you to discuss a humanitarian issue with you. This issue pertains to the Arabs who have no specific citizenship, as they are called. The UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] commander, whom I have met with, told me that he visited these people. They told him that they are Kuwaiti citizens who wish to return to Kuwait and that you are preventing them from returning to Kuwait. What is the truth of the matter regarding these Arabs?

[Al-Sabah] I wish to hear the exact words of the UNIKOM commander to confirm them.

[Jazulit] I have the tape Mr. Minister.

[Al-Sabah] I have to hear this tape to confirm it. We, as a government, have said this before, and the head of the National Assembly also maintained this point in his speech before the National Assembly. We have said that we challenge the Iraqi regime to show us one Kuwaiti citizen who has been deported from Kuwait and who is now present on Iraqi territory, and then we would be ready to return him to Kuwait today. One Kuwaiti is all we need. You should not fall into the trap of the Iraqi media, which often fishes in troubled waters. These are people who belong to the Iraqi forces. They wear civilian clothing and sit on the borders. They claim that they are stateless and wish to return to Kuwait.

Let me finish what I want to say. This process has acquired many dimensions. We are talking about Kuwaiti citizens who hold a Kuwaiti passport. The Kuwaiti Constitution bans the deportation of any Kuwaiti from Kuwait. Any Kuwaiti abroad has the constitutional right to return to Kuwait at any time. Therefore, these people are not Kuwaitis.

You mentioned that they have no specific citizenship. I want to come back to this point. Is there anyone on this world who does not have a citizenship? I vehemently reject this statement. There is no one on the face of this globe who claims they are stateless. We know that according to international law, when a state ceases to exist or is erased from existence, the subjects of that state become stateless because there is no state existing for them. But the status of these people would be stateless, not [word indistinct]. In this current situation we do not have a state that has ceased to exist. All these people have fathers and forefathers whose origins and extended families are in countries neighboring Kuwait, one of which is Iraq.

I am ready to assure you that 90 percent of those who claim they are stateless have Iraqi roots. They should return to Iraq. They have documents and all the necessary papers to prove that they are Iraqis. The issue is that these people are mixing Kuwait up in this matter and making allegations that they are—and this is a word I refuse to use and do not like to use at all—bidun [those without a nationality]. [passage omitted]

Parliament Speaker Rejects Iraq's Proposal

LD2310235394 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, said the invitation, made once again yesterday by the so-called Iraqi National Council, to enter a bilateral dialogue with the Kuwaitis, particularly with the National Assembly, was part of the repeated attempts by some figures in the Iraqi regime to give the impression to the international community that that regime was ready to accept UN resolutions.

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In an interview with KUNA, Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun added that Iraq must listen to the frank and clear view of the State of Kuwait that this invitation from the Iraqi National Council was rejected. He stressed that Iraq has only one way, i.e. adherence to the implementation of all the international resolutions which the Baghdad regime was still refusing to implement—particularly the resolution on the border demarcation, and release of the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees, who it was still detaining in its prisons.

In reply to what the speaker of the Iraqi National Council said: that resolution 687 did not include a recognition of the State of Kuwait, the speaker of the National Assembly stressed that the speaker of that council was talking, but not reading, because resolution 687 was a comprehensive resolution, and that clauses no. 2, 3, and 4 in it were connected with the demarcation of the borders between the State of Kuwait and Iraq.

Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun referred to the Security Council Resolution No. 949 and said the importance of this resolution, and through the international consensus, was represented by the fact that the Iraqi regime had reached a limit which prevented reliance on its credibility. The resolution also considered a new emphasis by the international community on the fact that the Iraqi regime has not adhered to the implementation of the international resolutions. The speaker of the National Assembly said this resolution was considered the most important of the resolutions issued by the Security Council. He stressed that the stability of the countries of the region hinged on the Iraqi regime's implementation of all international resolutions.

Ship Carrying Diesel From Iraq Detained in Gulf

LD2210220494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Air Force Colonel Musib Muhammad Najm, director of the army's moral guidance, has stated that the U.S. Naval Forces intercepted the ship Al Mhrousa flying the Honduran flag in the northern part of the Arabian [as heard] Gulf. This was in implementation of the UN resolutions against Iraq.

On searching the ship it became evident that it was carrying diesel fuel. The Al Mhrousa's captain claimed that his final destination was (Abijani) in Iran. However, it transpired from the evidence found on board the ship and from the confessions of its crew that it freighted diesel at the Iraqi port of al-Basrah.

The ship was detained on the basis of international embargo resolutions.

Air Force Colonel Musib Najm added that the Kuwaiti Government had agreed to take responsibility for investigating the violation by the captain and the owner of Al Mhrousa.

The director of moral guidance said that the Kuwaiti Naval Force would take over Al Mhrousa from the U.S. Navy this afternoon, 23 October, as soon as it enters Kuwaiti territorial waters. It would then be detained with its crew and all the evidence until investigations are completed.

Government Welcomes Visit by President Clinton

LD2310162894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 23 Oct—The Kuwaiti Government welcomes the visit to Kuwait by President Clinton and the delegation accompanying him which is expected to take place Friday [28 October].

The Kuwaiti Government also announced its approval of the principle of collecting donations toward the financing of military preparations and measures taken to face the Iraqi threats to the border of the State of Kuwait.

'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state in charge of cabinet affairs and minister of planning, said that during an ordinary meeting held today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, the Council of Ministers welcomes President Bill Clinton's visit to Kuwait.

The minister also said that during the meeting the council expressed its thanks and gratitude to the United States for the firm and serious stand it has taken in the face of the Iraqi threats to the State of Kuwait.

Mr. al-Dakhil said that the council recalled with further gratitude the United States' stand during the outrageous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and which resulted in the ousting of the invaders from Kuwait's pure land.

The minister said that the council stressed that President Clinton's expected visit demonstrates the United States' eagerness to preserve Kuwait's security, sovereignty, and independence. The council expressed confidence in the bolstering of the strong ties between the two countries.

Minister al-Dakhil also expressed confidence in the continuation of joint efforts exerted by all friendly fraternal states to put an end to the Iraqi regime's repeated threats and irresponsible practices which threaten stability in the region.

The minister said that the council praised King Fahd's recent statement and the noble values it includes, a statement that stresses Saudi Arabia's fraternal stands toward Kuwait and reflects the special relations between the two countries. The minister said the council praised King Fahd's efforts in support of Arab and Muslim causes.

Al-Dakhil said the Council of Ministers greatly appreciated the Kuwaiti people's attitude which reflects its authenticity and its eagerness to sacrifice everything for the sake of defending Kuwait's territory, sovereignty, and independence.

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Minister al-Dakhil went on to say that the Council of Ministers has tasked the minister for social affairs [words indistinct] and public societies with drafting the necessary special rules to organize donations by companies, commercial firms, various popular organizations, and individuals to contribute to the war effort in defense of the homeland.

He said the council reviewed efforts to address the deficit in the state budget by reducing public expenditure, rationalizing public services, and looking for new sources of income to bolster the budget.

Saudi Arabia

King Interviewed on Iraq, Arab Solidarity

LD2110134894 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0835 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 Oct—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, gave a comprehensive interview last Monday [17 October] at the royal court of al-Salam Palace to His Excellency Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the board of directors of the Egyptian AL-AHRAM newspaper and dean of Egyptian journalists. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Nafi' said that because he was meeting the custodian of the two holy mosques in the wake of the recent crisis fomented by Saddam Husayn, who amassed his military forces on the Kuwaiti border, it was logical that the interview moved to tackling what Saddam Husayn is doing to his country and people. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the Iraqi forces on the Kuwaiti border, and whether there was still Iraqi danger, the custodian of the two holy mosques said:

It seems to any reasonable person that the behavior of the Iraqi regime constitutes a real increasing danger on the Iraqi people, who are being dragged into ruinous wars due to sterile political planning and miscalculation. This can only lead to severe consequences, which require from all neighboring countries and the international community that they be cautious in order to curb this aggressive attitude. This is part of the cautionary measures required to contain this danger awaiting the Iraqi people's say in the matter.

Regarding the arrest of some people in the Kingdom, among whom some committed excesses which harmed national security, he, may God protect him, said: "Thank God, the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are a Muslim people attached to their Islamic faith by words and deeds, and there is no one among the Saudi people who can be qualified as being a fundamentalist, hardliner, or extremist. The human soul cannot be devoid of good or evil; however, people who are alert, and whom God has endowed with the capability of following the right path will neither be lost nor at the mercy of arbitrary views. We thank God for the fact that the Saudi people are safe because they are protected by God, thanks to their attachment to the noble and pure Islamic faith.

As regards the individuals whose number was detailed in an Interior Ministry statement, we pray God will guide them and make them understand the lessons drawn from the reality of the peoples who have been torn apart." This will be possible for them when they become sincere to God in their work, thus closing the breaches through which all wrong ideas, from whatever source, will infiltrate. In any case, the security services took the necessary and appropriate measures without causing harm to any of the arrested people, who we hope will recover their senses.

You may have seen the contents of the Interior Ministry statement stipulating the release of 130 people among those who were arrested, and the detention of 27 who will have investigations against them continued.

Concerning Western media exploitation of such events and the distortion to the pure image of the Kingdom and harm to its independence, the custodian of the two holy mosques stressed that some of the tendentious media that harbored hostility toward the kingdom are accustomed to exploiting incidents through which they think they can penetrate, and plot against this country because of its adherence to the Islamic religion which has ensured its prosperity and stability.

Regarding the aforementioned individuals, they were less than a few, and were able to benefit from the possibilities made available by the state, such as mosques, forums, and other venues. They could freely address the people and express their thoughts. But when these people stepped over the line and harmed society it was inevitable that they should be stopped, particularly because they violated the advice and guidance of the senior ulema commission.

Replying to a question on whether the Kingdom will witness new measures and regulations to stop offenders from exploiting religion and causing confusion among citizens, the king, God preserve him, said: "There are no new steps regarding this issue because the Ministry of Interior derives its regulations from the honorable Islamic shari'ah to tackle whatever rises to the surface in the best possible manner on a logical and rational basis, and in accordance with what the senior ulema commission agreed upon, with the help of honorable scholars, who carry out a distinguished role to enlighten the nation with beneficial knowledge, seeking thus the appeasement of God alone.

In his reply to a question on whether the Palestinian Authority receives sufficient support and backing from Arab states, he said that the Palestinian authority in the liberated territories is making all efforts possible in order to realise what can realised within the framework of integration, in order to establish their nascent state, which is the center of attention of all the competent

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states. The translation of this into practical steps, it appears to me, is to proceed along a sound path, and coincides with everything tangible on the ground of reality. [passage omitted]

Regarding his views on the decision made by the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers to end the boycott imposed on international companies dealing with Israel, he said that "The decision by the foreign ministers does not mean the lifting of the main boycott, but it means the second and third tiers, that is, the foreign companies and establishments that have limited cooperation with Israel. This has no direct interest for Israel, in as much as it is a step to make successful the efforts aimed at realizing peace in a manner that serves the public interest of our Arab nation by regaining all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." Regarding his appraisal of the concentrated efforts to push forward the peace process along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and his future view of the peace process, he said: "What is taking place on this track, despite all obstacles, is proceeding, as everyone can see, from good to better, thank God, and by virtue of the concerted efforts of the fraternal and friendly states that have thrown all their weight behind peace."

Regarding the views of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the Egyptian-Saudi joint role in security measures in the Red Sea region, he said: "Cooperation in the vital spheres at all levels between the Kingdom and the Arab Republic of Egypt during the reign of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak stems from the interests of the two fraternal countries. Thus, all steps agreed upon at the joint committees have been implemented with the full support of the two countries' leaders. However, as far as security measures in the Red Sea region are concerned, they have always been a matter of concern for both countries. Egypt has a leading role to play, given the excellent position it received from Almighty God, and its wise and sincere leadership."

Replying to a question on the Kingdom's strategy in arming the Saudi forces, the beloved king pointed out that the arming process in the Kingdom is being carried out in accordance with planned steps which take into account the need for continuous modernization of all sectors of our armed forces in a bid to enable them to protect our achievement. This is a basic right recognized by the international community.

Nevertheless, we only harbor good intentions toward everyone. The Kingdom has never been a source of troubles for anyone; it has always been, since its birth, a source of goodness, assistance and cooperation toward all its brethern. We will be very happy to see security, peace, and stability prevail throughout the world. Our forces work in this direction, but at the same time they are fully ready to ward off any danger from any source. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about what has been achieved regarding the establishment of a complete system for the defense of the Arabian Gulf security, and whether the idea of establishing a Gulf defense army is still alive or not, or substituted by bilateral agreements with the major powers, the King said "The Desert Shield forces were established to be a totally integrated system for the defense of Gulf security. Efforts are continuing to bolster them and to complete their defense capabilities so that they are able, by the will of God, to carry out the tasks entrsuted to them. As for the agreements to which you refer, they have no connection with this at all."

Regarding the best means for the restoration of Arab solidarity, the custodian of the two holy mosques said:" The restoration of Arab solidarity depends on making available a suitable climate so that it can reach the standard we hope for; the sincere Arab leaderships are continuing their endeavors to realise this fundamental Arab demand."

The custodian of the two holy mosques then replied to a question about an invitation extended to him to visit the United States of America by saying: "I have received an invitation from President Bill Clinton to visit the United States of America, and I have promised him that I will do so at the first possible opportunity, God willing."

Paper Previews Upcoming Clinton Mideast Tour

LD2310053994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0340 GMT 23 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [no dateline as received] [passage omitted] AL-BILAD wrote about the forthcoming tour by U.S. President Bill Clinton of the Middle East beginning Wednesday [26 October] when he will attend the celebration of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and then visit a number of states in the region. The paper said that the most important part of the U.S. President's tour is that it is a good opportunity to push the peace process in the Middle East, forward especially on the Syrian-Israeli track. It pointed out that there is no doubt that Syria's regaining the whole of the Golan and Lebanon's regaining its occupied south represent more than 90 percent of the road to peace in the Middle East.

The paper reaffirmed that U.S. President Bill Clinton has a not so easy task ahead of him, but that it is not impossible. He has to convince the Israeli leaders to be realistic and to accept the entire logic of peace in return for total security, and peace means the return of the land to its rightful owners and the restoration of the usurped rights to their owners. The paper concluded its leading article by saying that peace is a great hope to which all the peoples of the region aspire, and it is the right of all those who fought yesterday to live in peace today on condition that this peace will restore the rights to all parties; he who needs security shall have security, and he who has land shall have his land back in full without having to bargain for it.

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Yemen

Sanaa To Protest Saudi Interception of Airliner

NC2310215694 Paris AFP in English 2130 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Oct 23 (AFP)—Saudi warplanes intercepted a Yemeni civilian plane which was on a routine flight from Sanaa to al-Buqa near the Saudi border, the official news agency SABA' reported here Sunday [23 October].

The Yemeni Foreign Ministry was planning to lodge an official protest with the Saudi authorities after the Dash-7 plane was intercepted, SABA' said without giving further details.

The al-Buqa region lies some 382 kilometres (237 miles) north of Sanaa and 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Najran province.

Najran and the provinces of Jizan and Assir are controlled by Saudi Arabia but Yemen claims them.

Relations between Sanaa and Riyadh deteriorated during the two- month Yemeni civil war, when northern Yemeni officials accused Saudi Arabia of helping southern breakaway forces.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's troops captured the southern stronghold of Aden on July 7.

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Tariq 'Aziz Returns to Baghdad From UN Visit

JN2210102694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has returned to Baghdad, having participated in the recent UN Security Council debate on lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq and the results of the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

In an address to the Security Council, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed Iraq's position and its clear and tangible basic facts, supported with official documents. During the visit, he held meetings with permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council.

Briefs Saddam, Others on Session

JN2210171694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1704 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting which was attended by some members of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During the meeting, the conferees heard a report by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on the recent meeting of the UN Security Council and the contacts he had with the Security Council members.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

U.S., UK Reportedly Convey 'Warning' to UN Envoy

JN2110121994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, yesterday met separately with U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and British Ambassador David Hannay at their request.

The Iraqi News Agency has learned that the U.S. Administration and the British Government gave Nizar Hamdun a memorandum warning Iraq not to move Republican Guard forces once again to southern part of Iraq in the direction of Kuwait, basing this warning on the latest UN Security Council Resolution No. 949, which was adopted last Saturday.

The BBC radio cites its correspondent at the United Nations as saying that France and Russia do not believe that Britain and the United States have the right to issue such warnings or use force against Iraq without another resolution issued the UN Security Council.

The correspondent stressed that there is a clear division in the position of the UN Security Council members toward Iraq and that France and Russia will continue their pressures to introduce signals [in future resolutions] that will lead to, at a minimum, the easing the embargo imposed against Iraq.

In Washington, the U.S. Defense Department announced that the United States has decided to reverse its decision to send 19,000 marines and bomber aircraft to the Gulf. It also canceled the state of alert for more than 100,00 U.S. soldiers and said the total number of aircraft to be sent to the Gulf will be 270 and not 700 as previously decided.

U.S. President Clinton will hold a news conference this evening in which he will announce that there will be no more troops deployed in the Gulf because, according to a U.S. spokesman, the crisis has subsided. He will also discuss the recent nuclear agreement with North Korea.

Al-Sahhaf Protests U.S., UK Position on Resolution

NC2210192294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1836 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has stated that U.S. and British control over UN Security Council resolutions is the main reason why the Council has strayed from its aims in the past and why it is currently failing to legally abide by its own resolutions and lift the unjust siege on Iraq.

In a statement to INA, al-Sahhaf commented on the points included in the memorandum which the U.S. and UK representatives to the United Nations delivered separately to Iraq's permanent UN representative last Thursday [20 October]. He said that these two governments' position is essentially different than the positions of the majority of the Security Council members.

The foreign minister added that the above memorandum includes the interpretation of the U.S. and British governments of the resolution [words indistinct].

He added that this U.S. and British step is strange, and he wondered how these two governments can take the liberty of interpreting a UN Security Council resolution according to their own wishes.

The foreign minister declared that this is merely another attempt by these two governments to control the Security Council and impose their tyrannical will on it.

He pointed out that Iraq demonstrated its good intentions in the Iraqi-Russian declaration of 13 October, in the statement delivered by the deputy prime minister to the Security Council on 17 October, and by the tangible measures which Iraq took before Resolution 949 was issued.

The foreign minister said: We will inform the Security Council of this U.S. and British unilateral action. We will emphasize the need for a fair and balanced (?implementation) of Security Council resolutions.

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Official Denounces Sanctions Committee Decisions

JN2310131694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 23 Oct (INA)—The U.S. and UK representatives on the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee have rejected 413 requests to export goods to Iraq. The requests were submitted to the committee by Arab and foreign companies and individuals, as well as Korea and China. They were rejected under the pretext that these goods are not needed by the Iraqis. The committee also disapproved the dispatch of other material under the pretext they will be used in banned Iraqi industrial activities.

The U.S. and British representatives objected to the dispatch of the following items to Iraq at the Sanctions Committee meeting that was held on 11 October 1994 and whose decisions were announced today on the pretext they are not necessary: Textiles used in bed covers used in hospitals, tires, spare parts for ambulances, soap, detergents, medical glassware, wooden desks used in schools, blankets, children's clothes, oil stoves, batteries for agricultural tractors, nylon covers used in agriculture, agricultural spraying equipment, fishing nets, car lamps, ready-made and used clothes, electrical lamps, and fluorescent lamps.

The U.S. and UK representatives considered the following items as banned to Iraqi industries: Textiles and fabrics, window glass, brake fluid, nails, all kinds of glue, heels for shoes, synthetic threads, large pots and cooking utensils, welding bars, cloth used for sewing school uniforms, wood, all kinds of paperboard, iron bars, cigarette paper, synthetic leather, printing ink and stationery of all kinds.

INA has learned that the Sanctions Committee did not approve a request by Royal Jordanian airlines to run three weekly flights from Amman to Baghdad to alleviate the suffering of sick and elderly people, to accommodate the pilgrims who wish to visit holy shrines in Iraq, and to transport foodstuffs and medicines.

The British representative objected to the Jordanian demand and the U.S. representative objected to a flight from Moscow to Baghdad to transport medicines donated by Russia. He also objected to the resumption of the transport of meat shipments from Sudan to Iraq by air.

It is known that any objection voiced by any representative on the Sanctions Committee is tantamount to a veto, leading to the rejection of the request.

The U.S. representative once again rejected a request by the Indian representative on the committee to allow an Indian company to transport 1,500 pilgrims who wish to visit Iraq.

Commenting on the Sanctions Committee's decisions, an official source in the Ministry of Information and Culture said the following: It has become evident to the world at large that the U.S. Administration and the British Government, whose policies toward Iraq face frustration and disappointment for failing to achieve their objectives, are resorting to vengeful stands toward the Iraqi people. Otherwise, what logical explanation can possibly be given for the refusal to dispatch very ordinary material and services, the lack of which will harm the Iraqis, especially the sick, will complicate their lives, and will create living and health difficulties.

The source said: When one studies each of these items, one realizes the nature of the evil curtailment of the Iraqis most basic rights.

The official source added: The records of the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee no longer honor anyone who signs them, whether as individuals, or as government representatives. These records will remain a historical document that will stigmatize their owners with shame and highlight their evil nature to the world at large as enemies of human rights and the rights of people to progress and dignity.

Envoy to Arab League: Embargo To Continue Tension

NC2210100594 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 17 Oct 94 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Arab League Envoy Nabil Najm by Khalid Dawud in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dawud] Can you explain the secret behind Iraq's recent moves and buildup on the border with Kuwait?

[Najm] The movement of the Iraqi units is part of sovereignty measures in their legal and practical aspects and is part of the training that all world armies practice during peacetime. But the clamor that accompanied this training reveals the bad intentions of some parties, specifically the United States and Britain, which are trying to draw a picture different from that of reality and from the intentions of the Iraqi leadership.

Iraq was eager to announce that the presence of its forces in that region was not a threat to anyone. Therefore, we dealt with that issue in a spirit of responsibility and responded to the requests from our friends in the region to move those units to other positions to complete their training program.

[Dawud] But was the Iraqi leadership unable to predict that the mobilization of troops on the border with Kuwait at this time would produce a sharp U.S. reaction?

[Najm] The exercise being held by our forces is not the first of its kind. Several maneuvers had previously been held in that region, and they were reported and pictured by international news media.

[Dawud] Some people saw in the Iraqi moves a show of force and an attempt to pressure the Security Council

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into lifting the embargo, something they thought would produce the opposite results. What do you think of this?

[Najm] Everybody, including Iraq's neighbors, must know that the continuation of the embargo will maintain the state of tension and instability. The key to stability and understanding lies in lifting the embargo against the people of Iraq.

[Dawud] But there is now talk about new sanctions against Iraq, including the expansion of the exclusion zone along the border with Kuwait and the banning of Iraqi heavy weapons from entering that region. What is your reaction to such measures?

[Najm] We will reject them. We believe the international community and the fair people in the world will reject such a serious inclination. The solution lies in lifting the embargo, not in American measures. [passage omitted]

Vice President Meets With New Russian Envoy

JN2310175594 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct. 23, INA—Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan met today the newly-appointed ambassador of Russia in Baghdad, Nikolay Kartuzov.

Bilateral ties and means of boosting them in various spheres to serve interests of both friendly countries and realise security and stability in the region were discussed during the meeting.

Mr Ramadan expressed Iraq's satisfaction over the recent developments of the bilateral ties that would largely contribute to consolidating friendship and cooperation relations.

Ramadan Comments on Relations With Turkey

TA2310192894 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Husnu Kaftan video report in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, the second most important political figure in Iraq after Saddam Husayn, has declared that talks must begin as soon as possible between the highest-level officials of Turkey and Iraq in order to develop relations between the two countries. Stressing that Turkey is the country with which Iraq has established the best relations aside from Russia, Ramadan said:

[Begin Ramadan recording in Arabic, fading into Turkish translation] I have always believed that the friendship between Iraq and Turkey is very important, because this benefits both countries. I assumed the responsibility of relations with Turkey in the Revolution Command Council because I believe in this. I am responsible for this field. This is why I am excited now. Please excuse me. Iraq and Turkey do not have any time to lose. It is my duty, as well as that of Turkish officials, to increase relations between the two countries. You opened the Habur border crossing. We thank Turkey for this, but I would like to say that this is not sufficient. I especially emphasize the fact that satisfactory and deep-rooted relations to be secured between Turkey and Iraq will also play a great role in the establishment of stability in the region. [end recording]

Ramadan declared that Turkey is extensively affected by the embargo and can play a significant role in bringing about the lifting of the embargo. Pointing out that Kuwait's recognition is included in the Iraq-Russia declaration, Ramadan issued an indirect threat in the event the embargo is not lifted. He said: If the embargo is not lifted, the Iraqi people and the Revolution Command Council will struggle against the embargo and oppose it to the end.

These are the views of Ramadan. Now, the Baghdad administration is curiously awaiting the outcome of the peace treaty to be signed between Jordan and Israel on 26 October.

Speaker on Dialogue With Kuwait, Ties With Russia

NC2210215594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2133 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Oct (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has affirmed that moving Iraqi military units within Iraqi borders is one of Iraq's sovereign and legitimate rights as an independent state.

During a news conference he gave to the correspondents of several news agencies and international television networks today, Salih remarked that Iraq's exercising of this right does not pose a threat to anyone nor does it constitute a violation of the UN Charter.

Regarding Iraq's willingness to enter into negotiations with the Kuwaitis, the National Assembly speaker declared: "We are willing to begin such negotiations anywhere. The dialogue can be bilateral between us and the Kuwaitis or a third Arab party can participate."

He pointed out that in this context President Saddam Husayn announced in July 1994 that Iraq is ready to start a dialogue with all parties—notably Arab parties and specifically Gulf countries—with the aim of finding solutions leading to regional stability and peace. Salih noted that in the wake of the president's announcement, the National Assembly made an initiative to begin a dialogue with all parties, particularly with the Kuwaiti Parliament, to reach solutions to all existing disputes in a way that safeguards the two parties' rights.

The Iraqi National Assembly speaker continued: "This initiative is still in force. The door is still open for those who want peace and stability. They can seize the opportunity that this initiative presents to achieve regional stability and peace and [words indistinct].

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Commenting on Iraqi-Russian ties, he remarked that Iraq's relations with the Soviet Union were excellent and naturally its relations with the Soviet Union's legitimate heir, Russia, are extensive and excellent. He said the recent Russian position has augmented these relations.

New Group of Stateless Arabs Arrives in Tent City

JN2210170294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Basrah, 22 Oct (INA)—A new group of international radio, television, and news agency missions has arrived in the camp set up by the League of the People With Rights. [passage omitted]

In a related development, new groups of Kuwaiti nationals expelled by the authorities of the regime imposed on Kuwait have arrived in the camp set up by the League of the People With Rights.

A correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in the al-Basrah Governorate quoted Kuwaiti nationals operating the camp's media center as saying that these groups constitute the second batch of families and individuals to have arrived from the governorates of al-Ta'mim, al-Najaf, Karbala', Dhi Qar, and al-Muthanna to take part in protest activities.

The new families and individuals were welcomed by a delegation representing the camp's reception and accommodation committees. New tents were erected to accommodate new arrivals.

Kuwaiti citizens posted on their cars placards condemning the al-Sabah family, and demanding the international community to help them exercise their legitimate right to repatriation, and regain their other just rights, which are enshrined in heavenly faiths and earthly laws.

Writer: U.S. Plans To Dominate State, Gulf Oil Fields

JN2310165394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 October (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has expressed confidence that the major hurdles impeding the lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq are on their way to removal.

Writing under the headline "Have the Conditions for Lifting the Blockade Been Fully Met," Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH, said in an article published today that the American hurdle alone cannot prevent an end to the economic blockade.

He referred to what he called "the third oil shock," which he said oil experts and some world leaders expect to take place between 1996 and 1997. He said that this shock means that the world would witness an increasing demand for oil due to the increasing depletion of part of world oil fields this year.

He said the U.S. theory was based on the hypothesis that once Iraq falls in its hands by 1992 at maximum, the United States would be able to redistribute OPEC's production quotas and increase production because Iraq would then be an indispensable principal party to meeting world oil demand.

He added that the U.S. plan is based on realizing two successive goals. First, preventing the occurrence of a new oil shock through Iraq's return as a major oil exporter and a second fundamental goal, that is, the U.S. complete, unrivaled, and unobstructed domination of major oil fields, especially in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

He said that the recent crisis fabricated by the U.S. Administration against Iraq has weakened the U.S. position on the embargo and made the world wonder if any conditions remain to be met before the embargo can be lifted.

Salah al-Mukhtar said that the recent developments in the Gulf region have given prominence to the importance of Iraq in securing peace and stability in the world, adding that it is illogical to isolate Iraq forever because this contradicts the basic interests of most countries, including the real interests of the United States.

He said that the U.S. Administration is aware of these facts. However, it has a basic dilemma represented in its knoweledge that the methods of collision and war with Iraq are futile. It also knows that its retreat before Iraq by discarding the illusions of "containment" and starting to accept the proposals of Russia, France, and China to lift the embargo are tantamount to an explicit condemnation of a policy in which it has been involved.

Concluding, the writer stressed that Iraq, and not anyone else, can forestall a third world oil shock and prepare an atmosphere conducive to international cooperation under which Arab oil can be used in the service of all world nations without prejudicing Iraq's or Arab sovereignty.

U.S. Spokesman Cited on Tanker Interception

JN2310205494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A U.S. spokesman in Dubayy has said that the U.S. Navy in the Gulf has intercepted a Honduran-flagged oil tanker carrying a shipment of diesel believed to be transported from Iraq to be sold to foreign buyers. A maritime source said that the tanker is carrying approximately 3,000 tonnes of Iraqi diesel and that its crewmen are Egyptians and Pakistanis. The source added that it appears that this tanker has violated the oil embargo on Iraq.

This is the second oil tanker to be inspected within 10 days. On 13 October, the U.S. Navy intercepted a Greek tanker which was carrying a shipment of Iraqi cooking gas to Iran. The sources said that Iraq appears determined to break the siege imposed on it and that the owners of oil and gas tankers are indifferent to the measures taken by the U.S. Navy.

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Hamas Said Planning 'Spectacular Terrorist' Attack

TA2310190994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Intelligence information has been received according to which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is planning to carry out a spectacular terrorist attack in the next few days. Meanwhile, security services are preparing the largest preventive security operation in Israel's history.

The Shin Bet and the other security services are maintaining a very high level of alert, and security and preventive measures have already been implemented, including the recruitment of manpower and other resources for what is set to be the largest and most complex preventive security operation in Israel's history, mainly due to the early warnings regarding Hamas' intention to carry out a terrorist attack in the coming days. [passage omitted]

Rabin Orders 'Elimination' of Hamas Leaders

MS2310103894 London THE OBSERVER in English 23 Oct 94 p 15

[Report by Shyam Bhatia: "Israeli Squads Hunt Hamas 'Bastards'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qalqilya, West Bank—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered the intelligence services to hunt down and eliminate the leaders of the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, responsible for the recent wave of terror attacks in which scores of Israelis have been killed and wounded.

Rabin's secret decision was taken at last Thursday's emergency Cabinet meeting after 22 Israelis died and 40 were injured in the Tel Aviv bus bombing. Those at the meeting included the heads of Mosad and Shin Bet, the equivalent of Britain's MI5, as well as the head of military intelligence, Maj-Gen Uri Sagi.

The Observer has learnt that security officials presented the Cabinet with the names of senior Hamas operatives living in the Gaza Strip, occupied West Bank and neighbouring Arab countries who qualify for the hit list.

'We have taken the decision to teach these bastards a lesson they will never forget,' a security source said. 'Israel's arm is very long and can reach them in their most secret hideouts. From now on they will never feel safe, wherever they are.'

As part of the beefed-up strategy, more money is to be allocated for intelligence gathering.

Another Cabinet decision bans all Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Israel for an indefinite period. This has already hit the earnings of almost 100,000 Palestinians who work in Israel.

History is repeating itself. The strategy of vengeance was first adopted by the late Golda Meir, Prime Minister from 1969 to 1973, in retaliation for the Munich Olympics massacre. At least a dozen top PLO officials suspected of involvement in the 1972 massacre were eliminated by Israeli commandos.

Outgoing Army Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, who was also at the Cabinet meeting, is a well-known advocate of special operations. In 1988 Baraq supervised the Tunis raid in which commandos stormed the home of Yasir 'Arafat's deputy, Abu-Jihad, and shot him dead.

In an interview on Friday with Israel's mass-circulation daily, YEDIOT AHRONOT, Baraq said: 'The fight against the terror of Hamas must be played out to the end and with all the resources at our disposal. We will focus our efforts on the perpetrators of the crimes and those who stand behind them.'

Baraq's threats have prompted Hamas leaders to go underground. In Palestinian-controlled Gaza, prominent Hamas figures have left their homes for fear of being targeted.

'They are reacting like mice that smell the cat round the corner,' said a local journalist. 'They understand that this time they have crossed a red line and that Rabin is determined not to let them get off scot-free.'

Both Rabin and Baraq were condemned as 'despicable' by Salah 'Abd-al-Rahim Souwi [as published], the 27-year-old suicide bomber who apparently detonated the bomb on the No 5 bus in Tel Aviv's fashionable Dizengoff Street. On the eve of his deadly mission the 'living martyr' recorded his statement on a video cassette that was distributed by Hamas.

Shortly before he disappeared from his West Bank home town of Qalqilya to join Hamas's armed wing, 'Izz al-din al Qassam, Salah meticulously redecorated his family's front room with a floor-to-ceiling portrait of the Great Mosque in Mecca.

'I trust that when Israel destroys my house, they will not touch this picture,' said Salah's father, 'Abd-al-Rahim, who has been granted refuge, together with his wife and nine remaining children, at a neighbour's home. 'Army officers have told us the government has decided to raze our home to the ground.'

So far 'Abd-al-Rahim's home has been spared, because the mangled remains of his son have still not been pieced together in the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute.

'The terrorist's house will be torn down once his identity has been established beyond doubt,' an Israeli military source said. 'This will be carried out within the framework of a law based on the 1948 British Mandate emergency regulations. Our policy is to deter other potential terrorists and to create pressure on their families.'

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This weekend Israel has been engaged in one of the biggest manhunts in its history to apprehend the 'most dangerous' Hamas terrorist on the run. Israel believes that 27-year-old Yahya 'Ayyash, a chemistry graduate, designed the 10-20kg TNT explosive for Tel Aviv. Ayesh, nicknamed 'The Engineer', is blamed for the deaths of more than a dozen other Israelis killed by car bombs and other attacks in the past two years.

'He is a dead man,' said one of Rabin's aides. 'It's only a matter of time before we get our hands on him. There have been occasions when we nearly had him, but he miraculously escaped.'

Palestinian sources believe 'Ayyash's car bombs are Hamas's response to February's Hebron massacre, in which a crazed Israeli settler mowed down more than 20 Muslim worshippers in the Cave of the Patriarchs. At the time Hamas promised five 'gifts' in retaliation.

Many Palestinian families in the Gaza refugee camps and the West Bank have publicly lauded the Tel Aviv tragedy as an appropriate settling of scores. Those Palestinian leaders who have condemned the Hamas suicide mission have been severely criticised.

Hours after the Tel Aviv bomb exploded, 'Arafat, the PLO chairman, telephoned acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to offer his condolences and help in tracking down the culprits. It is a decision he may live to regret. On the same afternoon masked men from Hamas sprayed graffiti on Gaza city walls dubbing 'Rabbi' 'Arafat a 'servant of the Zionists'.

Palestinian officials have disclosed that at least a dozen policemen have been arrested for refusing to implement 'Arafat's iron-fist policy against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Like Hizballah and other Islamic organisations, the seven-year-old Hamas has built a network of schools, hospitals and social services that cater for the underprivileged.

This explains their growing popularity among Palestinians of all classes. 'Hamas is deeply rooted in our society,' said Palestinian lecturer Dr Ghassan Khatib. 'We are dealing with a popular movement, not a few dozen. If you try to kill the ones you see, you will only get many more of the same.'

Military Considering Plan To Deport Hamas Leaders

TA2110134894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Aluf Ben, and 'Edna Aridor]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The defense establishment is considering a plan to deport several leaders of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] West Bank branch and to detain numerous Hamas activists. The defense establishment's upper echelons yesterday decided that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Shin Bet will intensify their war on Hamas with measures that will include sealing and demolishing houses, as well as other steps that were made possible by the organization's outlawing: the closing of Hamas branches and of Hamas-affiliated institutions, a ban on the organization's public activities, and so forth.

According to army sources, the deportation of certain Hamas leaders will tangibly reduce the number of terrorist attacks and cause the organization's operations in the West Bank areas to abate. Although no decision has been made as of yet, the defense establishment took intensive action in the past 24 hours to compile data on the date and scope of the anticipated deportation.

Defense establishment figures said the planned activities aim to obliterate the Hamas infrastructure, thereby achieving calm in the area.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night that "the peace process is liable to stop if we are unable to ensure peace with security." He added that "either there will be full peace at the end of the peace process, or we will stop and wait for better times. We have patience." He said: "We are telling all our enemies: Even if you continue trying to harm us, we will prevail, as we have prevailed in every war. No enemy will defeat us. Thus we will achieve all our goals—both peace and security." [passage omitted]

IDF Arrests Hamas Activists, Rejectionists

TA2310172794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been a wave of arrests of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and members of the rejectionist groups in the territories. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] carried out these arrests over the last few days following the terrorist attacks of the past two weeks. Palestinian sources reported that most of those arrested are not major activists. Members of the Hamas political leadership are in hiding, fearful of being arrested by the security forces. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Identified; Reaction to Hamas Cease-Fire

TA2310060694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Salah Nazzal of Qalqilyah has been positively identified as the terrorist who carried out the suicide attack in Tel Aviv on 19 October. On Friday, the terrorist's parents were summoned to the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute, where their blood and tissue samples were compared with the terrorist's remains and were found to match.

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The investigation revealed that the terrorist boarded the bus carrying a large bag containing TNT. The Shin Bet has detained the terrorist's brother and cousin for interrogation. They are suspected of helping him hide and of supplying him with food and clothing over the past few months.

The investigation further shows that Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer, was the man who planned the bombing.

Meanwhile, Israeli security elements are very skeptical about recent declarations by several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political leaders concerning the possibility of a temporary cease-fire between Hamas and Israel. [passage omitted]

The security elements say Hamas' true stand on this issue is the one promulgated in leaflets published by the organization's military arm, which call for a continued jihad against Israeli civilians and soldiers.

The security elements stress that the security establishment will be the one to choose when to strike at the Hamas infrastructure in Judaea and Samaria. When we do, it will be a hard blow, the elements say.

Beilin on Hamas Cease-Fire, Clinton Statement

TA2310083494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman on 23 October; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dan] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Dan] There are several issues we would like to discuss, but let us start with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] issue. We have heard that Jamal Salim, one of the Hamas leaders, said the organization would be willing to discuss a cease-fire through third-party mediation. Can there be talks with those Hamas leaders—who are still a minority—who call for an end to terror and a mediated cease-fire, or is Hamas in any form an unacceptable interlocutor?

[Beilin] If the Hamas political leaders plan to discuss the terms of Israel's annihilation with us, they are no partner. If they intend to calm the raging tempers, however, I think we have outgrown the stage in which we said we would not speak with an organization just because of its name. Hamas is an extremely problematic organization which is resorting to the most savage forms of terror, but some of its factions are probably less extreme, and if these wish to reach a constructive dialogue with us, I am not sure we should rule it out because of the organization's name.

[Dan] In other words, you are in favor of finding some kind of a mediator or conducting direct talks with these Hamas people.

[Beilin] I would prefer not to address any specific proposal; I do not presume to be in a position to do so. If your question is whether Hamas—including even those of its members who are ready to reach a cease-fire and a dialogue with us—is out of the question in principle, I am not certain about that.

[Friedman] We should remember that we did negotiate with Hizballah in Lebanon more than once in the wake of Operation Accountability.

[Beilin] And look what happened to the British and the IRA and to all the governments that tried to avoid talking to certain organizations, governments that said they would never talk to them. These cases proved to be mistakes, and I think the PLO case proves my point. We said for years that we would not speak with the PLO, but eventually we did, because it proved that it represents a major part of the Palestinian people. Hamas is a factor of some importance, and although I do not propose that we engage in a love affair with it, I would not turn them down out of hand if their statements were to differ from those of the terrorists.

[Friedman] Dr. Beilin, help us peek behind the diplomatic scenes. When Clinton, on the eve of his trip to Damascus, says he expects al-Asad to declare to him that he denounces terror and that he will curb Hizballah activities in Lebanon, is this wishful thinking which may not materialize, or did the two men clinch a deal in advance: a visit to Damascus in exchange for a condemnation of terror?

[Beilin] First of all, I have to say that while a condemnation of terror by al-Asad is nothing to be sneezed at, it will not really delight anyone and will definitely not satisfy Israel. The condemnation in itself has no significance when uttered by al-Asad, because al-Asad can do more than condemn. Others are unable to do more, and in their case, a condemnation is sufficiently important.

As for the matter of advance preparation, it is very difficult for me to know. I would say the following: The fact that the first visit to Syria by a U.S. President should be made while Syria still remains on the U.S. list of seven terror-supporting countries means that the visit cannot be a mere courtesy or touristic visit, which will end in the sides' announcing that they held excellent talks despite the disagreements or in any other such diplomatic formula. Therefore, it stands to reason that prior to such a visit, the sides should hold intensive contacts toward some kind of understanding that will be announced at the conclusion of the visit.

[Dan] In addition, it should be hoped that Clinton has learned the lesson of Geneva, that he has secured some promise in advance rather than leave Syria empty-handed.

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[Beilin] I hope this visit will really be able to accelerate the political process with the Syrians, because there are still a great many peace arrangement components we have to discuss with the Syrians. What we badly need is to establish a process....

[Dan, interrupting] Yes, but you said Israel would not settle for declarations of condemnation. What gestures, beyond a condemnation of terror, can we safely assume President al-Asad will make? Can we expect a promise to intervene in Hizballah activities in south Lebanon?

[Beilin] There are two key elements which are very important to us, beyond general statements of condemnation of terror or the desire for peace. One of these is negotiations on a senior political level, which have not been held to date. I think only such a step will truly accelerate the process. The second thing is action against Damascus-based elements that openly declare they are operating against Israel.

[Friedman] After the Dizengoff massacre, Shim'on Peres said in a television interview that we should appeal to various distant addresses on the matter of the continued terror inside the country. He did not specify. Was he referring only to Syria, or does someone in Jerusalem think the issue can be discussed even with Iran, for example?

[Beilin] Even if there were someone who thought that, I do not think Iran is a possible partner for talks. I believe it is not.

[Friedman] Clinton can deliver the goods on this matter, because there are things the Iranians want from the United States, such as the lifting of the boycott, and so forth.

[Beilin] Perhaps. I think Peres was primarily referring to some neighboring countries in which religious and secular opposition groups, which are against the peace process, conduct their violent activities. There are groups like that in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, as well as Egypt, and our moves should be directed at these countries, with which we have various degrees of dialogue, first and foremost.

[Dan] One last question regarding the peace agreement with Jordan, which is scheduled to be signed this week. Why were Mubarak and 'Arafat not invited?

[Beilin] I must say my information on both aspects of this question is garnered from the media. I see no reason whatsoever why Mubarak and 'Arafat should not be invited, but I have heard that 'Arafat himself did not want to be invited. I cannot believe that Mubarak or a senior Egyptian representative will not be invited to such a ceremony.

[Dan] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Thank you, too.

Cabinet Discusses Peace Treaty With Jordan, Hamas

Approves Jordan Treaty

TA2310114794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The cabinet this morning approved the peace treaty with Jordan. The vote was unanimous. The cabinet also decided that an additional 19,000 foreign workers may be brought to Israel and increased the fines to be imposed on Israelis employing Palestinians who do not have entry permits. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Fifteen thousand additional foreign workers are to be brought to Israel for the construction industry and 4,000 for agriculture. Prime Minister Rabin said this had to be done because of the closure and the rise in the price of fruits and vegetables on the Israeli domestic market. Labor and Welfare Minister Ora Namir supported the decision to bring in 15,000 construction workers but opposed the decision to bring 4,000 foreign agricultural workers. Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni abstained. We asked Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein if the increase in the number of foreign workers meant that the closure on the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria was to become permanent:

[Rubinstein] No, it's not. It means that we have to exercise more control over the people who pass from the Gaza Strip into Israel proper, and this has been accompanied by a new law which imposes heavier penalties on Israeli employers who employ Palestinians workers who cross without a permit into Israel. All these are defensive measures. This is not a collective punishment; this is just to save our people from the sort of catastrophe which we have seen in Tel Aviv last week.

[Katzenell] The cabinet also approved the peace treaty with Jordan, and the decision was unanimous. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 23 October carries a similar report by Shlomo Raz, who adds: "The cabinet was informed of a number of steps already taken and some that are under way against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]." Raz adds that "because some of these steps are in progress, we are prohibited from divulging any details." In a recorded interview with Raz, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says: "The government made a series of decisions, including special handling of the Hamas matter, which will eventually resolve the issue. The closure helps quite a bit, but we must remember that this is an ongoing war that will not bear immediate fruit."]

Changes Policy on 'Terrorists' Homes

TA2410114894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Oct 94 p 7

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet yesterday decided that the State Attorney's Office and the Military Judge Advocate General's Office will soon announce a change of policy regarding the destruction of homes belonging to the families of terrorists, and may also start demolishing the houses of dead terrorists.

Until now, the prevailing policy was that the houses of dead terrorists were not sealed or destroyed. In the wake of the recent wave of terrorist attacks, tougher punitive measures will be enforced.

A senior legal source yesterday said: "the phenomenon of kamikaze terrorists has altered the circumstances and we will have to adapt our policy accordingly."

In light of the above, the State Attorney's Office is expected to defend the government's decision to to seal the house of the perpetrator of the terrorist attack on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv.

The Civil Rights Association is expected to submit an appeal to the High Court of Justice over the next few days, after agreeing to represent the dead terrorist's family.

"The main argument we will present in our appeal is that innocent family members should not be punished after the chief perpetrator has been killed," members of the association explained.

Told al-Nabatiyah Shelling 'Mistake'

TA2310160794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At today's cabinet session it was reported that the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] shelling of a house in the area of al-Nabatiyah last week was a mistake. The United States has also been apprised of the mistake. Katyusha rockets were fired at the Galilee panhandle following the IDF's shelling of al-Nabatiyah.

IDF General: Katyusha Attacks 'Flagrant Violation'

TA2110164694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, has told residents of several settlements in the north that they may leave the shelters. However, he has recommended that the children sleep in the shelters tonight. Residents of other settlements in the north have been told to remain in the shelters for the time being. This follows a katyusha attack this afternoon. Several missiles landed in the Galilee Panhandle and in the security zone in south Lebanon. No one was injured. Several katyusha rockets caused brush fires. Israeli Army and SLA [South Lebanese Army] forces retaliated.

Maj. Gen. Mordekhay said that the Hizballah katyusha attacks of the past 24 hours were a flagrant violation of the understandings reached after last year's IDF Accountability Operation.

Islamic Jihad Leader Denies Involvement in Bus Bomb

MM2110155994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Islamic Jihad Movement Threatens Israelis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the "Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine," has denied his movement's responsibility for the Tel Aviv explosion. He said that the operation was carried out by the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) "and that is a source of pride for us."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, al-Shaqaqi reaffirmed "support for and pride in that action, and we proceed on the same road." He added that the military action "confirms that peace which overlooks people's rights cannot be real peace because it is not a peace of the people."

He added: "I believe that the operation was in retaliation for the failed attack" carried out by an Israeli commando on the place where Israeli soldier Nashon Wachsman was being held in Lod. He pointed out that it was "a message from Hamas saying that it can retaliate." He threatened the Israelis with similar operations by the Islamic Jihad Movement. He said: "We will do our best to ensure that our people hear good news."

He emphasized that the military operations carried out by Hamas "will affect the peace process. We need more in order to torpedo their disgraceful peace. It is (the explosion) a part of a continuing process which will defeat the counter process (the peace process) if it survives." [passage omitted]

Arab Leaders Assail Bombing, Urge Anti-Hamas Action

TA2110153494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Oct 94 p A3

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli Arab leaders yesterday called for calm and restraint in the wake of the Tel Aviv bus attack.

"We urge Jewish members of the public not do anything against Israeli Arabs who are themselves innocent," said Husayn Sulayman, spokesman for the national monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership.

The committee issued a statement categorically denouncing the bus attack and the loss of innocent lives. The announcement said the entire Arab community in the country expressed condolences to the bereaved families and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

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"We condemn the cold-blooded murder of innocent Israeli citizens and see attacks of this kind as a provocation against the peace process," said Sulayman.

"The whole aim of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is to try and destroy the peace process, something we completely and utterly oppose."

The statement called on the government not to allow the attack to delay or defer the peace process in any way because this would be playing into the hands of the perpetrators.

Similar comments condemning the attack and the perpetrators were issued by leaders of the fundamentalist Israeli Arab Islamic Movement, which is reported to have ties with Hamas on religious, social and welfare levels.

"All of the Arab community denounces such murderous deeds. If PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat wants to promote autonomy and a stable form of government, he cannot allow any other military organizations alongside the Palestinian Police.

"If he allows such organizations to exist and even grow, they will eventually take over and destroy everything he is trying to establish," Sulayman added.

"In order to ensure the safety and well-being of the Arab people in Gaza and the West Bank, the Hamas political leadership cannot allow people like the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam to operate. We also call on the Hamas leadership to crack down on those responsible for such deeds and destroy them because... these acts are simply aimed at destroying the chances of peace," he added.

Local Arabs Demonstrate Against Hamas

TA2310110894 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Muhammad Khalayla]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dozens of Arab youths from Nazareth and Galilee villages staged demonstrations yesterday at major junctions in condemnation of the Tel Aviv murders.

For the first time ever, Arab youths carried signs and chanted slogans against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], calling it a murderous, peace-opposing movement.

In Nazareth, a march was staged by dozens youths belonging to Meretz and the Arab Pioneering Youth Movement. The demonstration was headed by Knesset Member Walid Sadiq, deputy agriculture minister, and heads of local and labor councils. The demonstrators carried signs reading "Murder—Destruction and Hatred; Peace—Growth and Progress" and "Hamas—The Peoples' Enemy." The demonstrators urged the government to continue the peace process with the Arab countries and lit 22 candles to commemorate the victims of the Tel Aviv terror attack.

On Friday, rallies were held in many Arab villages in the Galilee and the Triangle, expressing repulsion with Hamas and the attack.

Our correspondent reports that for the first time, Israeli Arabs are unanimous in their stand against Hamas terror and murders, as the heads of the Israeli Islamic Movement were among the leaders of those condemning the murder. [passage omitted]

Peres: Peace Process Stable Enough To Continue

AU2110164794 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 21 Oct 94 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gisela Dachs, Nikolaus Piper, and Theo Sommer; place and date not given: "There Is Nothing More To Conquer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DIE ZEIT] Mr. Minister, in the Middle East, joy and shock are often close together. Last week on 14 October, the good news that Prime Minister Rabin, you, and Yasir 'Arafat were being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and the tragic report that kidnapped Private Nachshon Waxman had been shot by his kidnappers before it was possible to free him came almost at the same time. Three days later, the Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement was initialed. Is the peace process already so stable that it cannot be upset again by anything?

[Peres] Yes, it is stable enough to continue. In history, there is no moving back, only forward. That does not mean that this process is without shock, violence, or pain. However, the direction is clear.

[DIE ZEIT] What immediate effects will the peace agreement with Jordan have?

[Peres] It means a historic chance in our relations. We have the longest and most complicated border with Jordan. I told the king: We are making peace with other countries while we are building peace with Jordan. In the border region, we want to initiate a large-scale project for the development of tourism, desalting projects, and infrastructural measures. We want to turn the border into a field of cooperation and the desert into a blooming landscape.

[DIE ZEIT] In your book "Reconciliation," you write that you belong to a generation that lost a world and then built a new world—Israel. Now you want to secure the future by making peace in the whole region. So far, however, there has not been comprehensive peace. How do you want to convince the most tenacious opponent of peace?

[Peres] The peace dodgers are remains of the past. A message for the future does not come from them.

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[DIE ZEIT] Has PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat really become a partner for you during the past year?

[Peres] Yes. He is the first Palestinian in our century who decided in favor of the road of compromise. There have been two important Palestinian leaders. One of them was the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, and 26 years ago 'Arafat succeeded him. In the 43 years that he was in office, the Mufti said no to everything. He could have had a Palestinian state, but he said no—and created the refugee problem. He broke with Jordan and had many people on his conscience.

[DIE ZEIT] 'Arafat told me once: Formerly I was as popular as Muhammad; now they tear my photograph up. I replied: You can again become as popular as the mufti was in former times and as you were yourself for a long time. But who had to suffer for it? Not us, but your own people. Many lost their freedom, their children, their life. What for? Certainly at the time you make compromises you are contested. But progress is not made without controversies. For the first time, the Palestinians now have a geographical point of rest, authorities of their own, and the prospect of a Palestinian identity card. Compared to that, what is undivided popularity?

'Arafat often said that the fundamentalist Hamas movement is only so strong because the peace plan has not been implemented quickly enough. On the other hand, it is certainly difficult to increase the speed as long as Hamas is committing terrorist attacks.

[Peres] Hamas existed before the Oslo agreement. Their people killed, committed bomb attacks, and threatened everything and everyone even before Oslo. The Oslo agreement did not result in the disappearance of the Hamas movement, but it created a chance that did not exist before. The future does not belong to Hamas.

[DIE ZEIT] On what is your conviction based?

[Peres] We are living in a completely new world. We have not changed, the world has changed. The decisive change is that today's sources of strength and wealth are of a nonmaterial rather than a material nature. What counts is no longer the size of a country, its number of inhabitants, or its raw material resources, but research, development, and information.

Strength and wealth cannot be secured any longer with an army. Knowledge cannot be conquered. On the other hand, new borders are developing from science and technology for the military as well. On the one hand, there are missiles today that can fly across national borders, while, on the other hand, there are only limited military defensive means against mass destruction weapons. Thus, not least, strategic considerations force us to think regionally and act diplomatically.

[DIE ZEIT] What if the neighbors do not yet think in these categories?

[Peres] This will come. One nice morning, we woke up and the Soviet Union had broken down. I do not know one expert that predicted that. My old mentor Ben Gurion used to say that all experts are only experts for what has happened and not for what may happen. The Soviet Union's breakdown was not caused by an army, a power, a superpower. What caused the collapse? It was the free spreading of information. Information today goes around the world and changes it. It will also change the Arab world. The change will not be caused by us, but by the small silver screen. The young people in Damascus, Cairo, Amman, and Moscow—they look at it and ask themselves: Why the others and not us, too? Why there and not here?

[DIE ZEIT] How can it be explained that just a part of the world where very advanced former civilizations has developed is lagging behind so far behind in the economic field today? And what is your confidence based on that the Middle East can hold its own in competition with Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America for capital, markets, and products?

[Peres] Per-capita income is approximately $1,000 per year in the Middle East. If we succeed in increasing it tenfold, a new market will be created. Considering that, with almost 300 million people, the population of the region is not that much smaller than that of the European Union [EU]. If you look back at this century—my God. Henry Ford was right and Lenin was wrong. Lenin tried to discipline the workers and turned them into slaves, while Henry Ford paid them enough so that they not only remained producers but became consumers. I would like to see a Middle East where there are both producers and consumers. Both are needed for the standard of living to increase.

[DIE ZEIT] In your book "Reconciliation," you claim that the Middle East is an idea whose time has come and you advocate a new agenda in the region. What is your vision?

[Peres] The key to the development of the Middle East, the key to a better life for every individual is and remains the standard of living. For a long time, many have regarded politicians as mere accessories to television shows and mere background figures at photo sessions. We shake hands, we smile into the cameras, and we have our picture taken, but the people are secretly thinking: To hell with all politicians! What are they really doing for us? We have to face the people's real problems. One cannot fight hunger with guns and get at fundamentalism with photo sessions. Poverty nourishes fundamentalism. We Israelis also have to understand: It is not enough to combat terrorism, we have to eliminate the roots of terrorism.

[DIE ZEIT] Why is this necessary?

[Peres] It is not so much the question of a Marshall Plan. The point is to create the right structures. In the past 10 years, approximately $600 billion flew from the Middle

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East to Europe; it was invested there in real estate property, hotels, houses, and palaces. With half of that money, we would have been able to revolutionize the region. By the way, in the same period, Europe only invested $20 billion in the Middle East. And yet another figure provides food for thought: Also in the past 10 years, the Middle East states spent $700 billion on arms and war material. The two sums add up to $1,300 billion. My God—no Marshall Plan would ever come near this amount! We have to create a change here first before we ask others for help.

[DIE ZEIT] If you had the money, how would you spend it?

[Peres] The Middle East is on the verge of becoming a complete desert. We can combat the desert with water and scientific means, above all scientific means. Israel has increased its agricultural yield 17 fold within 25 years, up to 95 percent of it by using new scientific methods. He who wants to create food for his children has to turn the Middle East into a green landscape. We also need a regional approach to it. In the same way, the arms race will never be stopped if everyone does not participate simultaneously.

[DIE ZEIT] This sounds very reasonable, but reason does not always guide human behavior. Harvard Professor Samuel Huntington predicts a clash of cultures. The question is whether the forces of reason in the Middle East are stronger than those who bank on a war of cultures.

[Peres] Therefore, I believe that we will live in a world full of dispute. But I hope it will not be a world where people kill each other.

[DIE ZEIT] If your vision is translated into reality, will this result in Israel's orientalization—or the westernization of the Middle East?

[Peres] Neither one thing nor the other. It will result in the modernization of the Middle East. Everyone will have to modernize himself.

[DIE ZEIT] Is modernization not tantamount to westernization?

[Peres] Not necessarily. You can be modern and yet speak the prophet's language, like us.

[DIE ZEIT] Does this mean that Israel will integrate more than before into the Middle East and turn away from Europe?

[Peres] Geographically yes, intellectually no. There are no limits to science and no flags for technology. Information cannot be locked in—it floats. All of us are becoming more global, more universal, whatever you want to call it. In the cultural sense, we will be more likely to remain citizens of our nations; in the economic sense, however, we will more likely become citizens of the world.

[DIE ZEIT] What can the European Union do to support the Middle East peace process?

[Peres] The Europeans can help develop a new structure similar to that of Europe.

[DIE ZEIT] Is it a matter of money?

[Peres] The governments have budgets, but no money and the enterprises have money, but no responsibility beyond their own economic activities. There is more money than ideas. The big firms have enough of it, but they will not invest in an area of the world where there are no real guarantees. Therefore, we tell the governments: You do not have the money, you cannot invest—all right, but please give guarantees to your firms so that they can invest in new regions. Encourage your firms in this way to build desalting plans or airports, whatever they want.

[DIE ZEIT] With what arguments would you lure German or European investors to the Middle East? After all, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe are also canvassing for scarce capital.

[Peres] This region is moving toward peace at high speed. At the same time, however, the greatest danger may also develop here. Since the breakdown of the Soviet Union, we have been on the road from a world full of hostility to a world full of problems. We are realizing that we have organized to cope with our enemies but not for the solution of the problems.

What is our greatest problem? The Middle East, which tends toward fundamentalism because of poverty will procure modern mass destruction weapons. Moreover, many people from this part of the world will migrate to the west and knock on Europe's door.

So I say: You have to choose between a danger and a promise. The promise, but also the danger, has its price. He who does nothing will have to pay. Europe should understand this.

[DIE ZEIT] At the end of this month, the economic future of the Middle East will be discussed in Casablanca. For the first time, Israelis will participate in this conference together with Palestinians and other Arabs, but also Americans, Russians, and West Europeans. This was your idea?

[Peres] More or less.

[DIE ZEIT] What is the point?

[Peres] The point is to attempt to make the peoples of the Middle East look at the economy instead of military questions. First of all, the most important thing is that this be done in a large circle of states. Second, it is important that the governments and representatives of the private economy sit at the same table. Third, it is important that we have changed the map of the region by going to Casablanca, to an Arab country. Finally, the conference is important because we are lighting a ray of

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hope in this way—in a region that has been torn by hostility so far. We want to show that there is another way. So far, the response has been incredible.

[DIE ZEIT] Does the new Middle East that you have in mind also need new joint institutions? Jean Monnet used to say that nothing is created without men and nothing survives without institutions.

[Peres] Jean Monnet also said that every man has to decide for himself what to do with his life. What we need is a new current, a new wave, not a new administration. Fresh wind is needed everywhere. We should not pose as the masters of characters; we have to choose between different tendencies. The institutions will come.

[DIE ZEIT] Where do you take your unshakable optimism from?

[Peres] When I was still young, I learned that 60 percent of politics consists of distrust. Politicians are distrustful. I think that this is a waste of time because even the evil cannot be perfect. Distrust is always greater than the reasons for it. One need not mobilize pessimists. There are enough of them. What we need are people who believe in something.

[DIE ZEIT] Your book ends with a quotation from the Bible: "The Lord says: Behold, the time will come when man will at the same time till the soil and reap, make wine and sow. And the mountains will be bathed in sweet wine, and all the hills will be fertile." Has this time come or will another Nobel Peace Prize be needed in another 15 years because your compatriots are not yet giving your vision a chance?

[Peres] Imagine Benjamin Disraeli going to the queen of England today and offering her Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. She would answer him: "Thank you, sir, once is more than enough." Who would want to go back there? Why should we fight once again?

All that is only the beginning. We will not only put an end to the present era but to all previous eras. War as a means of politics has lost its importance. There will probably still be wars, but no longer wars of the strong against the weak, but wars of the weak against the strong—not wars of conquest, but wars of protest. He who wants to prevent them has to find out and eliminate the causes of protest. There is nothing more to conquer.

Peres on Agreements With PLO, Clinton Visit

TA2410092094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay on 24 October; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Gay] It is hardly morning for you; I understand you are still living yesterday [reference to jet lag].

[Peres] Yes, we returned rather late.

[Gay] With your permission, I would like first to ask about the joint Israeli-PLO statement condemning terror. Is the Israeli side satisfied with the PLO response to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror?

[Peres] The action the Palestinians will take will show whether it is satisfactory. On the level of declarations, we achieved yesterday what we set out to achieve, but the test will naturally be the extent to which the declarations will be carried out.

[Gay] What does Israel expect?

[Peres] Israel does not expect the PLO to defend Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, but Israel does expect the PLO to be responsible for what goes on in Gaza and for those exiting from there. That will be the test.

[Gay] How is it supposed to materialize?

[Peres] If there is gunfire, they must capture the individuals responsible for it, and if Gaza or Jericho terrorists head for Israel, they should prevent their exit, or, alternatively, they should detain them upon their return.

[Gay] Are you referring only to the future or to the past and present as well?

[Peres] They say that they made a supreme effort in the past, and they even had complaints about us accusing them in the Wachsman kidnapping affair since, they say, he had never been held in Gaza. They say that despite that, they left no stone unturned in their searches for the kidnappers. Therefore, we can say that in the case of the late Nahshon Wachsman, they really displayed their good intentions.

[Gay] And what about the other Hamas attacks?

[Peres] They say they are searching for the perpetrators. They firmly denied being lenient with people engaged in violent activities. On the contrary, they realize that these people threaten them, too.

[Gay] Our correspondent Arye Gus, who accompanied you to Cairo, is in the studio.

[Gus] Mr. Peres, throughout the talks the Palestinians complained about the continuing closure.

[Peres] I have to point out that Israel imposed a closure, not a siege. In other words, Israel does not plan to strangle Gaza economically. That would be the worst mistake we could make. Thus, even under closure, there are a great number of possibilities with regard to trade, the entry of tourists, and the entry of investors. On the other hand, we are also looking for ways to compensate them for the closure, because we all understand that when 30,000 workers are sent home, which means a

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terrible financial plight, their plight will grow, as will their bitterness and insecurity.

[Gay] Are you saying the closure is incomplete, that some people are allowed to enter?

[Peres] I did not say it was incomplete. It is complete with regard to entries into Israel, but it is not with regard to Gaza's ties with other places and with regard to the entry and exit of goods. That is clear. Gaza will suffocate without that.

[Gay] But how can the separation, of which the prime minister spoke, or a process that will culminate in at least an economic separation, be ensured?

[Peres] Separation means we do not intervene in how they handle their affairs provided they handle them properly and naturally provided they send no terrormongers to us. But we have not given up the desire to aid the economic rehabilitation of Gaza, we definitely have not.

[Gus] Mr. Peres, the Palestinians' other grievances had to do with the Israeli-Jordanian agreement. They argue that some clauses of that agreement, such as Jordan's preferential status in Jerusalem and the water issue, contravene the Oslo agreement and the Declaration of Principles.

[Peres] We explained this matter to them. What we and the Jordanians agreed on was that the status quo would be upheld on religious matters, and what we and the Palestinians agreed on was to uphold the status quo on civilian matters. In Oslo, we told the Palestinians: You will not be divested of the civil rights you have in Jerusalem, such as education, social welfare, social institutions, and so forth. What we told the Jordanians was this: You will not be divested of the religious rights you have in Jerusalem. In other words, Jerusalem remains within the status quo in every sense: Politically, it remains a united city under Israeli sovereignty, and it is the Israeli capital; in the civilian sphere, Palestinians residing in Jerusalem will retain their rights; and in the sphere of religion, Jordan will retain its status in the holy sites.

[Gus] Did you feel they accepted this explanation?

[Peres] Look, they would like to receive a different answer, but they understand that we are not likely to give it. They have a right to raise the Jerusalem issue at the permanent arrangement talks, but there is plenty of time until then.

[Gay] Do you share the optimism evinced by your host, President Mubarak, with regard to a quick agreement with Syria?

[Peres] I cannot seriously answer this question, because no one knows what President al-Asad will decide tomorrow. I would like to be optimistic, but that would be wishful thinking. As for hard facts, I do not know enough to be able to judge.

[Gus] Do you believe Clinton's upcoming visit here and to Damascus can help the Syrian track?

[Peres] I hope so. I hope this visit will indeed advance the talks. I estimate that this is what the President intends to achieve.

[Gay] What can he do in a two-hour shuttle?

[Peres] These are no mere two hours, these are two presidential hours. Let us hope he will try to exert his influence.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Rabinovich Views Clinton's Damascus Visit

TA2310174894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador in Washington and head of delegation for talks with Syria, by correspondent Razi Barqay; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Barqay] Good evening, Ambassador Rabinovich.

[Rabinovich] Good evening.

[Barqay] Did Israeli officials, perhaps you yourself, recommend to the White House that President Clinton refrain from visiting Damascus?

[Rabinovich] Certainly not. This is a domestic U.S. affair; they did not consult us, and we did not volunteer our advise.

[Barqay] Is not Israel interested in preventing such intimate contacts between Clinton and al-Asad at this time?

[Rabinovich] No, we are not interested in this. While not being interested in facilitating these contacts, we are also not interested in preventing them. There is an ongoing U.S.-Syrian dialogue; the secretary of state arrives in Damascus on a monthly basis, and therefore the contacts are ongoing, albeit not on the presidential level. A meeting between Clinton and al-Asad took place last January. Syria naturally attributes importance to the fact that Clinton is visiting Damascus. Progress in U.S.-Syrian relations is their own affair.

[Barqay] Israel should at least demand some compensation, for example in the form of an al-Asad antiterror statement.

[Rabinovich] Look, this is better left for the Americans and Syrians. I think there are enough Americans who expect this of al-Asad, whether the media, various organizations, or Clinton's own advisers. So if we are interested in this, let them do the work for us.

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[Barqay] It is conceivable that in the wake of this visit Syria will be removed from the list of terror-sponsoring countries. Do you think that if that happens Israel should continue to show an indifferent or a neutral attitude?

[Rabinovich] I do not believe that this possibility is on the agenda. Two things are required for removing a country from this list. First, they must get rid of the reasons that have caused the country to be on the list, in this particular case, supporting the activity of certain organizations both in Damascus and Lebanon. Second, such a move requires the support of the U.S. public and Congress. For this to happen certain deeds must be done and a change in the nature of U.S.-Syrian relations must occur. These things are not negative in themselves, but they will not happen overnight.

[Barqay] You do not seem to be too concerned about this U.S.-Syrian rapprochement.

[Rabinovich] We are constantly following this process, which is aimed at improving U.S.-Syrian relations. This process depends on progress in the Israeli-Syrian peace process, which the United States is actively mediating, as well as on a series of steps, such as changing Syrian policy in Lebanon and Syrian-Iranian relations. All of these would be positive developments for Israel as well, and we should not be troubled by them. You hinted at the possibility of an unjustified rapprochement, that is, that relations would improve without Syria's investing the necessary efforts. I do not believe this possibility is realistic.

Tour Said To Show Desire To Reward Syria

TA2310122594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Oct 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Placating Dictators"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] American efforts to find an excuse for taking Syria off the list of terror-sponsoring states sometimes border on the humorous. The latest word from Washington is that the administration would like to consider such a move, but it feels that Syria "is not doing enough" to make the Hizballah stop lobbing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel. This is like suggesting that the US is not doing enough to rein in the marines. Even Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has made it clear that Damascus controls the Hizballah.

But Syria's dictator Hafiz al-Asad can hardly be blamed for concluding that the American desire to reward him for any sign of "good behavior" is infinite. President Bill Clinton's decision to visit Damascus this week conveys a clear message: The slaughtering of tens of thousands by al-Asad's troops, the Syrian sponsorship of some of the most heinous terrorist crimes in recent decades, the occupation of Lebanon, and the threat to regional stability posed by Syria's feverish arming are all forgotten. All al-Asad had to do was utter the word peace and let Jews leave the country.

Al-Asad must also be aware that he is not the first tyrant to enjoy such an instant change in American attitudes. Disregarding all evidence of Baghdad's deep and continuous involvement in terrorism, the US took Iraq off the list of terror-sponsoring countries in the late 1980's. Saddam Husayn's conciliatory words in the spring of 1990 to a delegation of US senators of both parties, led by the Senate's Republican leader Robert Dole, were greeted with gushing enthusiasm. And the Israeli government was severely chastised, both by the Senators and the administration, for failing to realize that Saddam was a peace-loving Western-oriented leader, who would serve as bulwark against Khomeyni's fundamentalist hordes.

Even in Israel, the Likud government's skepticism about America's new regional hero was viewed by many as typical intransigence. In Labor there were passionate supporters for a deal with Saddam, led by then-MK [Knesset Member] 'Ezer Weizman.

The identical process seems to be unfolding now in relation to al-Asad. The state of Syria's economy is such that it needs the West—and the US in particular—if it is to avoid economic stagnation. Russian military advisers and technological experts have returned to both Syria and Iraq in full force. But the state of the Russian economy is such that neither country can expect to receive Russian loans or economic assistance.

For Washington, this affords a tempting opportunity to replace Russian influence with an American presence. The administration hopes to convert Syria—and eventually Iraq—into another Egypt; to make Damascus so dependent on American help that it would not risk antagonizing the US by attacking Israel or joining a radical alliance under Russian sponsorship.

Unfortunately, such schemes of Pax Americana do not always work. The pervasive American presence in the Shah's Iran only helped bring his downfall. The mullahs used the fear of spreading Western "decadence" as a weapon against the regime. Even more instructive was that the Carter administration, which in effect helped Khomeyni gain power, hoped to retain American influence in Iran by placating the murderous new regime. The results were hardly impressive.

That American economic cooperation and military support do not prevent aggression was best illustrated in the case of Iraq. It was the US and its Gulf allies that saved Saddam from defeat by Iran, and it was the US and Western Europe which armed him with conventional and non-conventional weapons. Yet when the choice was between rational, Western-oriented progress and naked aggression against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Saddam chose the latter. Even in Egypt, massive American assistance and joint US-Egyptian maneuvers do not guarantee against a takeover by Islamic militants.

That Washington has learned little from these experiences is apparent from its efforts to appease al-Asad. That al-Asad has agreed to utter the words "we have

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made a strategic decision to seek a comprehensive peace" was hailed as a great achievement, as was al-Shar's agreement to answer prearranged questions in a television interview. In its eagerness to reward Syria, it has chosen to ignore that immediately after the bus bombing in Tel Aviv, radio Al- Quds, broadcasting from Damascus with full Syrian cooperation, praised the deed as a heroic act against the Zionist enemy. Like the PLO, Syria has done nothing against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activities within areas under its control.

The American penchant for the pragmatic has always militated against long-range planning. Ever since World War II, when it assumed responsibility in the region, the US has shown a preference for deals with existing regimes, regardless of their character.

But deals with Middle Eastern despots have a nasty way of backfiring. The way to real peace is to encourage the fast-growing democratic elements in the Arab world. Only when they gain power will peace treaties be worth more than the paper they are written on.

Arab Shot Dead, Soldier Injured in Hebron Incident

TA2310101294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An Arab youth tried to stab a soldier in downtown Hebron today. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, who were present at the scene, fired at the assailant and killed him. The soldier who was attacked sustained a very slight injury.

The IDF has clamped a curfew on Hebron's Policeman's Square, the scene of the incident.

Slain Assailant Brother of PA Official

TA2310124994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An Arab youth attempted to stab a soldier in the center of Hebron today. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers subsequently shot and killed the assailant. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that Palestinian sources in Hebron reported that the slain man was 24-year-old Nidal al-Tamimi, the brother of Ahmad al-Tamimi, the director general of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

UK's Rifkind: No Political Obstacles to Arms Deals

TA2410061294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind says his country will consider Israeli offers for military sales. Speaking last night in Tel Aviv, Rifkind said there are no longer political obstacles to arms deals between the two countries.

[Begin Rifkind recording] And I believe there are good prospects—and I know our Israeli friends believe there are good prospects—for defense sales between Israel and the United Kingdom. There are no longer any political difficulties about such matters. We will be happy to consider proposals from Israeli companies to meet the needs of the British armed forces. We will judge these proposals purely on the extent to which they would meet the defense requirements of our armed forces and be competitive in price. We know our Israeli friends will apply the same criteria with regard to British equipment that might be available to them.

So, I think in a number of important ways these contacts are close, they are warm, and they are growing in a significant way. [end recording]

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King Addresses Opening Session of Parliament

JN2210122294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1018 GMT 22 Oct 94

[Speech by King Husayn on the occasion of the inauguration of the second ordinary session of the 12th Jordanian Parliament in Amman—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the faithful Hashemite Arab prophet, his household, and companions.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. In the name of almighty God, and with his blessings, I open the second ordinary session of the 12th Jordanian Parliament. It is a source of satisfaction for me that your honorable assembly is meeting in this favorable climate under which our country is continuing its march toward development and democracy and reaping the fruits of its steadfastness in the face of challenges and storms. Our country has held fast through confidence, capability, and credibility until its people have reached tangible results in waging the battle of peace in defense the historic rights of this homeland to its land, water, and the future of its sons. Now, together with the peacemakers, they are shouldering their humanitarian responsibilities under UN auspices to help keep the peace in several troubled areas of the world. They are carrying the image of the Jordanian who is armed with knowledge, awareness, and pride to a world that is undergoing profound changes, causing concern, and dictating alertness and vigilance. We should follow these changes closely in order to contain their consequences, to steer them toward the prosperity and freedom of mankind, and to explore the possibilities for our future generations with a vigilant vision that will turn these changes into a light guiding the way for human progress and precluding the exploitation of these changes in a manner that would subject our people to the ambitions, hegemony, and exploitation of others.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

My government has continued to face difficult and critical conditions, as you are aware, and has shouldered enormous responsibilities in coping with the burden of completing the plans for comprehensive national development, enhancing the democratic process, and continuing work for the sake of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace. We have also acted with openness toward the Arab brothers around us in a new spirit capable of breathing life into the Arab order. My government has also continued its efforts for the sake of comprehensive reform based on scientific foundations in all areas of life. It has also striven for the protection of the democratic process, confronted anything that would undermine the freedom and security of our citizens, promoted the rule of law, and protected the national fabric with a united Jordanian family. All the citizens of this one family concur on doing what is good and deepening the ties of brotherhood that link them together. They reaffirm their constant commitment to the Constitution and the National Charter, as well as to political pluralism and rule of law. This is the image of the new Jordan and it can be only this way. With the almighty's blessings, Jordan has attained a sufficient degree of knowledge and awareness to open the way for the realization of its vision, the maturity of its experiment, and the repulsion of all attempts to minimize its role, tarnish its image, or divide its citizens.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

One of the meanings symbolized by the convening of this session is the emphasis placed on the need to strengthen the Parliament's role in our democratic process. The foundations of this process are strongly based on the principles of rights, freedom, and justice. It is also based on pluralism and respect for all opinions free from fanaticism, extremism, or inflexibility. The democratic process is gaining ground and growing stronger inside the homeland day after day. It has become a fact as lofty as the facts of our martyrs and forefathers, who faced difficult times when they had to learn, cultivate the soil, and fight at the same time. Their tombs and the signs of their patience can be seen all the way from al-Karamah to Jerusalem.

Jordanians have never bowed at the gates of Jerusalem and its Holy al-Aqsa Mosque [applause] except to kneel before God or to die as martyrs for the sake of its glory and holy sites. Jerusalem's holy places remain a trust with the Hashemites, who are resolute on its patronage, construction, and on the supervision of its holy sites. The Hashemites do this out of loyalty to the nation, because any vacuum that might arise could cause the loss of these holy sites and tampering with the immortal heritage of this nation. Jerusalem will continue to be our most treasured place and the jewel of peace. Our relationship with Jerusalem will continue to be larger than is imagined by those who do not know our history in the holy city. It is a relationship based on faith, prophecy, history, and martyrdom. [applause]

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

Amman was and still is the convergence point of the Arabs. Thus, our brothers in dear Yemen chose to meet here and sign their document of pledge and accord. We have striven to stress the need for dialogue and unity among the citizens of fraternal Yemen. We have done whatever we could to avoid bloodshed in Yemen and rushed to their assistance at the outbreak of the crisis. We are still close to them as they are now building high the monument of unity and democracy.

Amman is also close to the suffering of its brothers in Iraq and is seeking to end the inter-Arab fighting, which has caused losses for all the Arab brothers in the absence of a pan-Arab solution, which we were the first to call for. While we would like to assert our eagerness to alleviate

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the suffering of any Arab people, we would also like to emphasize the right of every Arab state to enjoy its sovereignty and to be secure and stable. We would also like to underline the significance of transcending the past with all its wounds and to rise to a new level of inter-Arab political action. This is a prerequisite that will enable Arab countries to safeguard their security and protect their independence and their rights. It is also necessary to enable the whole Arab nation to be a partner in the new world scene and to achieve the Arab peoples' aspirations for freedom, dignity, justice, and progress. It is all the more important to close this nation's ranks and to promote dignity, freedom, and an awareness of future generations so that it can occupy its rightful place in this world full of challenges and accelerating developments.

Out of our insistence on the clarity of our pan-Arab vision and the constancy of the Jordanian position, we have declared that we absolutely stand against any further use of arms among the Arab brothers under any circumstances. We have also declared that we stand against any threat posed by one Arab brother to another. Moreover, we have reiterated our concern over Arab bloodshed and arms. We called for dialogue and declared that Arab arms should not be used against Arab brothers and that Jordan will not hesitate to stand against any Arab side that violates this principle.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

My government has amended the decision to sever legal and administrative ties between the two banks of the River Jordan to include religious courts and awqaf [Islamic endowments] departments in the West Bank, with the exception of Jerusalem. We have done so out of our eagerness to neutralize the differences that have appeared in the numerous decisions and statements made by some officials of the Palestinian Authority, and after we learned of the harassment experienced by Jordanian officials there. We have declared our complete eagerness to keep the holy sites in Jerusalem under our religious custody, which we have been carrying out on the nation's behalf. Jerusalem is the symbol of permanent peace among the believers and the sanctuary of their hearts. Under no circumstances or conditions will we relinquish our religious responsibilities toward holy sites. I thank almighty God that he has honored me with this religious and historic responsibility towards the holy sites, and given me the strength to shoulder this responsibility. With the help of the almighty, the third Hashemite renovation of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock has been completed in the best possible manner. Work is currently under way to reconstruct the Saladin pulpit. God willing, we will continue to rejuvenate the tombs and shrines of the companions of the Prophet, and improve the areas surrounding them in various parts of the kingdom. The designs for the first phase of the project for the rejuvenation of these tombs and shrines in al-Mazar al-Janubi have been completed, and the tenders for their implementation will be announced soon.

Designs are currently being made for the tomb and shrine of the revered companion of the Prophet, Abu-'Ubaydah, in the northern Jordan Valley. My government will also extend its support for mosques to help them perform religious guidance in accordance with the injunctions of the true Islamic religion, as well as the principles of centrism and moderation, which are characteristic of the Islamic faith.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

My government has been careful to safeguard the march of the country toward the attainment of its goals. Therefore, we have instructed it to take into account two basic and closely related issues: The first one is to uphold the rule of law and promote justice among the people. The second is to support our Armed Forces and all security departments.

In the area of the rule of law, we would like to assert our eagerness to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, which must be provided with the necessary means for the discharge of its duties and the shouldering of its responsibilities.

We would also like to declare our support for the courts in their efforts to carry out their duties efficiently and competently. Likewise, we would like to declare our support for the enactment of the necessary legislation to ensure the attainment of this objective. The government has provided judges with the necessary incentives in order to guarantee them a dignified life. As for our Armed Forces, security departments, the General Intelligence Department, and the Civil Defense Department, they are the shield of the homeland, the arm of the law, and the protective fence of freedom and democracy. They are the apple of my eye. Our people are very proud of them. To all of them in each and every position, we extend from your honorable assembly greetings of love, pride, and appreciation. They are the knights of the nation and the holders of the banner of the Great Arab Revolt. [applause]

My government will shoulder its responsibilities by providing them with the means to develop their capabilities and promote their competence in a manner commensurate with the accelerating developments in the world.

Respect for human rights and liberties, democracy, security, and stability are all prerequisites for a strong Jordan. They can all help to enhance Jordan, its ability to absorb the fruits of civilization, and its ability to shoulder its responsibilities, which have never been confined to its territory alone. For, these responsibilities extend to include the defense of the whole nation, its freedom, history, security, and future. We have been eager to provide the proper climate for the unleashing of innovative potential and initiative in our public and private institutions to achieve justice and balance between rights and obligations without bias or discrimination in favor of, or against, any party, group, or sect.

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Therefore, I have designated my brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, who is the apple of my eye, [applause and chants] to preside over the Royal Commission for Development and Modernization, which will undertake the responsibility of preparing for the new phase. The crown prince is known to us and the people for his profound insight, and also for his eagerness to promote the concept of building an institutionalized state. He is also careful to assert the rule of law and the protection of public funds with no leniency towards any manifestations of dereliction or the exploitation of public offices for personal gain.

In this area of reform, we should indicate that the government seeks to enhance administrative decentralization and bolster the role of executive and consultative councils in the governorates. Four new governorates have been created within an advanced administrative and development outlook. My government has created a portfolio of state for administrative development to steer the process of administrative reform on a rational, institutionalized basis. Our objective is to raise the efficiency of the government apparatus and to facilitate procedures for citizens when they deal with this apparatus. An amendment of the municipalities law was issued to enhance local development, decentralization, and participation in the decisionmaking process. Sixty-four new municipalities have been created, in addition to a number of village councils.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

The national economy continued its progress with firm steps in an environment of monetary stability and healthy economic development, coupled with a stable exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and the containment of the rise in the cost of living. Gross Domestic Product is expected to grow by 5.5 percent during 1994. This is the third consecutive year in which the national economy's performance has clearly outgrown the rate of population growth. The performance of the national economy was in parallel with the objectives of the economic adjustment program. In fact, economic performance was better than the goals set by the adjustment program in numerous areas. The deficit in the state budget was reduced, as well as the burden of foreign debt service. Similarly, the trade deficit was also reduced. This outstanding performance was the outcome of a series of corrective measures that my government has introduced for the purpose of rationalizing spending, increasing revenues, maintaining the general level of prices, and modernizing fiscal and tax legislation in a manner compatible with the requirements of the economic adjustment program and the requirements of the forthcoming phase. Work is currently underway to amend the customs and income tax laws, as well as the laws governing the functions of the free zones corporation. Work is also underway on other laws, including the encouragement of investment, the regulation of Arab and foreign investment in Jordan, and on the Amman Stock Market. This is aimed at creating the appropriate climate to attract Arab and foreign capital and encourage savings. These amendments will be submitted to your august assembly when they are ready.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

My government is also continuing the policy of relying on local revenues to cover all recurrent expenditures, and part of capital expenditures, to recover the real cost of services and commodities and to restrict government subsidies to only those people with limited income. Despite the pressure on the kingdom's foreign currency reserves as a result of the unstable political conditions in the region, the Central Bank of Jordan has managed to overcome this problem and to keep an appropriate level of foreign currency. It has also managed to rebuild its reserves to a satisfactory level. These reserves are increasing one month after another thanks to the stable conditions in the region and the financial support that my government has managed to obtain. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Jordan has managed to maintain the stability of the exchange rate of the dinar. My government has succeeded in reducing the burdens of servicing Jordan's foreign debt, whether directly by the cancellation of part of these debts or through the purchase of some of these debts at high discounts. An agreement was signed with the Paris Club member states and other states to reschedule $1.34 billion. A final agreement was also signed with the London Club of commercial banks to reschedule all due commercial debts, amounting to $895 million.

My government hopes to continue to implement these economic and financial policies next year as the national economy is expected to continue its growth at the same high rates attained in the last three years. The government will also seek to reduce the budget and trade balance deficits, maintain the general level of prices, and continue efforts to reduce the burden of foreign debts. Investment policy will be based on giving a larger role to private sector investment and to restructure some state corporations with a view to transferring them to public companies and consequently transferring part of their ownership and management to the private sector in order to improve their performance and to provide the private sector with the incentive to participate in the development process.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies: My government has sought to achieve the required progress in the areas of education, culture, guidance, and information. In the area of education, my government continued to provide the necessary services and to develop educational facilities. It has paid special attention to the construction of comprehensive school buildings. Consequently, the ratio of students in leased buildings dropped to less than 14 percent and the ratio of students in schools with a two-shift system dropped to less than 10 percent. We have instructed our government to improve the conditions of teachers by allocating a professional allowance for teachers commensurate with their qualifications and achievement. We have also instructed the

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government to provide the teachers housing fund with a loan amounting to some 20 million Jordanian dinars and the state treasury will pay the interest on this loan.

My government has also completed the implementation of the new curricula and school textbooks in all classes of basic education. New curricula for the secondary phase will be completed next year. Furthermore, the government will seek to improve teaching and evaluation methods and general examinations. It is noteworthy that a significant improvement has been achieved in the area of illiteracy as the rate of illiteracy for people above 15 years old has dropped to 14 percent.

In the area of higher education, my government will strive to consolidate the independence of universities and to offer them all the necessary support so as to maintain their distinguished status. The government has improved the conditions of the university personnel. A comprehensive review of higher education is currently underway with the aim of improving its efficiency and strengthening its association with developmental needs. Moreover, a study to restructure community colleges is also underway in a manner that would enable graduates to meet the constantly changing needs of society. It is a source of great satisfaction that Al al-Bayt University with its three levels of higher education has been opened for the sons and scholars of the nation who joined it. This adds to this country's bounty for its nation. We hope that this international Islamic university will receive the necessary support and assistance it needs for shouldering its responsibility toward the rejuvenation of the Islamic mission to the nation and the whole world.

My government has worked for the care and welfare of youth and sports. It has completed sports complexes and facilities in a number of cities in the kingdom. An integrated sports city is currently under construction in al-Zarqa' and work is underway to launch a center for the training of sports leaders and instructors. The government will continue work for the completion of the model centers and the revival of al-Husayn work and construction camps to invigorate the resources of the young in the building of the homeland.

In the area of culture, my government supported and activated the cultural movement, took care of innovators and protected innovation, and supported writers, artists, and literary figures. The number of cultural, theatrical, and artistic institutions has increased. My government will seek to complete the draft law of the association of artists [applause] as well as the draft law of the cultural development fund. It will also open new cultural centers in various governorates and pay a special attention to the national library and the Royal Cultural Center.

In the area of information, my government would like to assert its full support for the freedom of expression—I do not want to say, regrettably [applause]—in the mass media in accordance with the provisions of the law and within the framework of respect for the truth, the values of the nation, and its immortal heritage, as well as the defense of the higher national interests, and the protection of the rights of others, free from all forms of accusations, extortion, or instigation.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies: My government has continued to develop and expand health services in the remedial and preventive fields. The number of hospital beds in Jordan is expected to reach 2,788 by the end of this year. Work is underway on the construction of new government and private hospitals, including the King 'Abdallah Hospital at the University of Sciences and Technology.

In the field of health legislation, ordinances on food and drug safety have been issued. Draft laws on food, drugs, and comprehensive health insurance will be referred to your august assembly. My government has referred to your august assembly a draft law on the environment, calling for the creation of an environmental institution to be in charge of approving the environmental policy and providing tax exemptions as an incentive for the protection of environment against pollution.

My government initiated this year important projects for the protection of environment, including the projects for the protection of al-Azraq Oasis and the Dana Reservation Project.

In the field of social development, curbing poverty, and improving the conditions of the limited income groups, my government continued to activate the role of the national aid fund and the development and the employment fund to enhance supervision over charitable societies and to support social protection and assistance networks.

My government will seek to introduce legislation involving social action, particularly the law on the protection of childhood and to strengthen family cohesion and safeguard its options.

My government has sought to stabilize the prices of basic food stuffs within the limit of the approved subsidy together with ensuring that this subsidy reaches those in need. It has also supported local agricultural production and ensured strategic food stuff reserves by increasing the storage capacity on various parts of the kingdom. Silos, warehouses, and markets for the Civilian Consumers Cooperation are now being expanded.

In the agricultural field, my government has continued the implementation of land reclamation and soil conservation projects, as well as projects for the creation of pasture reserves and pits. It has also begun the implementation of a project that will increase food production and another project for diversifying the sources of income of poor families. The government has already extended agricultural loans amounting 8.6 million Jordan dinars to 3,259 farmers. My government has also subsidized farmers by incurring interest on agricultural loans amounting to some 11 million Jordan dinars.

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In the area of water, and as a result of the imbalance between needs and the available resources, my government sought to relocate, develop, and utilize new water resources. A project for pumping water from al-Haydan area to the Amman and Madaba Governorates has been completed.

An ambitious plan is currently being implemented to replace the old water networks in various cities of the kingdom, my government is currently implementing a plan to construct a number of dams and work on the construction of the al-Karamah Dam has already begun. The studies and designs for al-Walah, al-Mawjib, and al-Tannur Dams are in the process of being completed. Desert dams are being constructed by a joint effort with our Armed Forces. Sewage services are currently being expanded to protect the environment and to safeguard water sources.

My government has continued its persistent efforts to achieve further accomplishments in the areas connected with rendering services to citizens, and providing them with the necessary care, chief among which are the care extended to workers and aiding labor associations. It has submitted to your august assembly a new draft labor bill—one that would realize further gains for workers, improve labor conditions, and extend care to working women. This draft bill covers agricultural workers for the first time.

Similarly, my government sought to regulate the labor market, and to restrain the influx of non-Jordanian workers. It is now working on the creation of an institution for the employment of the labor force, as well as on the improvement of vocational training. It is also seeking to enact a law to regulate vocational work and expand the umbrella of social security.

In the area of housing, my government has completed five housing projects in Amman, Irbid, and al-'Aqabah at a total capacity of 3,183 housing units. Eight housing projects are currently being implemented in Amman, 'Ayn al-Basha, al-Salt, and al-Zarqa', and al-'Aqabah with a total capacity of 3,758 housing units, which are expected to be completed early next year.

My government has completed the opening and asphalting of 350 km of major roads and 150 km of rural roads. It has also opened a large number of agricultural roads and asphalted some of them. Work is currently under way to complete the al-Zarah road, the second part of the Irbid-al-Shunah al-Shamaliyah road, and several other roads. My government will continue to construct roads with emphasis on agricultural roads, and to support the construction sector so that it may carry out its duties efficiently.

In the area of transport, my government is currently making a comprehensive review of the land transport system to define its needs, regulate it, and renew its fleet. The review is also aimed at restructuring the Public Transport Corporation and conducting a feasibility study on the operation of a railway line from Amman to the Syrian border. It is noteworthy that the operational performance of the national carrier Royal Jordanian has tangibly improved, as it carried 1.2 million passengers last year, with revenues increasing by 30 million Jordan dinars. Royal Jordanian's capital has been raised from 21 million Jordan dinars to 70 million Jordan dinars. Work is under way to modernize its fleet to keep pace with the developments of the international transport endeavors, and the requirements of the next phase. The government is about to complete in-depth studies aimed at privatizing Royal Jordanian.

In the area of tourism, the indicators for this year are reassuring. The number of visitors and tourists to the kingdom has risen by about 50 percent. Since the forthcoming phase requires large investments to develop our touristic and therapeutical potential, My government is trying in earnest to prompt the private sector to be the principal participant in this field.

In view of the tourist demand for Petra, a Higher Committee for Permanent Tourism Development has been set up. Similarly, a Regional Planning Council has been set up for the area with a membership that includes all the parties concerned, including the public and private sectors. A specialized company is currently conducting a technical study aimed at launching tourist and therapeutical projects for the development of the eastern coast of the Dead Sea. Tender invitations have also been announced for building tourist rest houses in several locations. A mosaics school has been completed in Madaba, and a tender has been invited for conducting an economic feasibility study and making designs for the construction of touris' facilities in the 'Afra' hot springs in al-Tafilah.

In the area of antiquities, My government is conducting a systematic excavation of archaeological sites. There is currently 45 such operations being carried out in collaboration with international missions. Furthermore, the government is carrying out maintenance and restoration work on archaeological sites in each of Petra, al-'Aqabah, al-Karak, 'Ajlun, Jarash, Umm Qays, Amman, Umm al-Jimal, the Umayyad palaces, Islamic castles, and archaeological pools.

The government has expanded in the communications and post field, particularly in the field of express mail. Jordan is now linked with more than 150 states. It has built buildings, offices, and the required mail agencies. It has also expanded telephone services. The number of subscribers increased to 298,000. Work is underway to establish switchboards in a number of cities and villages in various areas in the kingdom.

My government has focused its efforts on the exploration of oil and gas in the areas of al-Rishah, the Dead Sea, al-Sarhan, and the northern Jordan Valley. It forwarded a tender to install four gas units, one of which in al-Rishah area, in addition to two steam units at the al-'Aqabah Thermal Station. It has also forwarded the

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tender of electricity linkage with Egypt as part of the grid project linking Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and Turkey. As part of the efforts to electrify the rural areas, 433 villages and population centers are now connected. My government seeks to transfer the Jordan Electricity Authority into a public share-holding company owned by the government before the end of this year.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

This is the general picture of fulfilled aspirations of my government, and of plans it seeks to implement with a comprehensive outlook aimed at reform and change. While the government has followed up these achievements with determination in all sectors and locations, it has also concentrated on the negotiations process aimed at reaching a just, comprehensive, and durable peace based on international legitimacy, a peace which restores our rights fully. In Madrid, we provided an umbrella for the Palestinian brethren to participate in the conference and to negotiate for the sake of regaining their legitimate rights to their homeland. You are no doubt aware of the agreements that followed which led to the creation of the Palestinian Authority in a manner acceptable to the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As for us, we continued negotiations on the Jordanian track in accordance with the priorities which we have set for our negotiating delegation. Then came the Washington Declaration as an advanced step on the path that enabled us to regain our rights. This was followed by the transfer of the negotiations to the sites and areas where Jordan exercises sovereignty over the land and water. The negotiations were serious and lengthy. Jordanian negotiators made distinguished patriotic efforts worthy of appreciation and gratitude by our loyal people who appreciated such achievement which was part of the defense of the rights of the homeland in all spheres. Following the negotiations, my government managed to reach a draft peace treaty with Israel. The treaty is in line with the constants that govern Jordan's policies and with international legitimacy. The treaty provides for the restoration of Jordan's full rights to its land and waters, for the delineation and demarcation of permanent international borders between the two states, and for exploring prospects of cooperation in the various fields in accordance with agreements to be reached later.

The draft treaty affirms the comprehensiveness of peace on all fronts, and that it should be just and durable. It also highlights Jordan's distinguished role and its significant and central location in the region. The draft treaty emphasizes the need to enhance Jordan's security and stability and affirms its sovereignty and its national and pan-Arab dignity. It also affirms that Jordan should have the opportunity to progress and to develop comprehensively free from aggression or harassment. The treaty will enable Jordan to tackle its basic issues, particularly those of poverty, unemployment, water, and electricity, and will also reinforce its regional and international stature. My government will submit to your esteemed house a draft law to proceed with the constitutional procedures for the ratification of the treaty.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies: We have worked for peace in the defense of our rights and the protection of our generations and in an attempt to open new horizons for progress after a long time in which many opportunities were lost. We have headed toward peace within national consensus and worked for it in the same spirit in which we fought in the defense of our land and the dignity of our nation within a Jordanian national consensus [applause] at a time when the Jordanians had to spill their pure blood without seeking any personal gain or gratitude.

We hope that this treaty will herald the beginning of a new era leading to comprehensive peace embracing the entire region—peace that will allow the peoples of the region to find new opportunities for construction and progress. We will support all our Arab brethren on the other Arab tracks to regain their full rights. We will continue to be advocates of coordination with all our Arab brethren on various issues, always proceeding from our independent Jordanian decisionmaking, free from hegemony or the denial of roles.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies: We have worked with all our potential to restore Arab solidarity and declared that we are prepared to transcend the former experiences and events, whether sweet or bitter, and we have extended our hands to all our brethren so that our nation could again play its pioneering role in a new world which should surely be based on justice, equality, and the rights of peoples to self-determination on their soil in full freedom. We have always believed that we can have a promising future only if we close ranks and cooperate for the sake of this Arab Islamic nation, for which it is time to rise from its doldrums and overcome the stagnation that has affected its progress, as well as the inaction and the denial which have afflicted it. Therefore, we will strengthen our relations with the Arab and Islamic states and open the vast horizons of cooperation with all friendly countries in the best possible way which would serve our joint interests and help us cope with the circumstances and the requirements of the future.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies: This cherished homeland needs the resources of all its citizens. It is a homeland of a mission and a cause. While the circumstances of the Arab nation around us preclude the achievement of all-out pan-Arab resurgence, we will continue to cherish this ideal. After all, we are the men who carried the banner of the revolution in the name of the Arab nation [applause], who fought in various parts of the Arab world on behalf of the this nation, and who held fast at the walls of Jerusalem and at the immortal river on behalf of the Arab nation as well.

Our location in the heart of the Arab homeland, our moderation in thought and politics, and our defense of freedom, democracy, and human rights have made us a state with a mission—a state whose vigilance for its Arabism is always present and whose defense of the

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nation is evident and unique. In everything it strives to achieve, this state depends on the credibility of its stand, on the courage in upholding the truth, on the unwavering commitment to principles, and insistence on independent position and decisionmaking—an independence for which we will not accept any reference other than the Constitution and the nation which the Constitution has made a source of all powers.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies: I salute you again and call on you to embark on further cooperation, hard work, and sacrifice. I bless your efforts and march and beseech Almighty God to protect our dear Jordan from all evil and to grant our one people of Jordan resolve, determination, and love for good deeds. I also implore God to guide us all on the path that is satisfying to him, inspired by the words of Almighty God. I only desire your betterment to the best of my power; and my success in my task can only come from Allah. In Him I trust, and unto him I turn. [Koranic verse] Peace be upon you and Allah's mercy and blessings.

Clinton Reportedly Not To Address Parliament

JN2210102094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to AFP, a responsible Jordanian source has said that U.S. President Bill Clinton will not address the Parliament during his visit to Jordan next Wednesday [26 October] to attend the official signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

King Said To Accompany Clinton on Israel Visit

JN2110151094 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Jordanian Monarch King Husayn will make his first visit to Israel next week.

Informed sources in Washington told AL-ITTIHAD that U.S. President Bill Clinton, who will attend the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, will be accompanied by the Jordanian monarch on his visit to Israel after the signing of the treaty.

King Not To Travel With Clinton

JN2410085094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn will not travel with U.S. President Bill Clinton to Israel after the signing of a peace treaty between Jordan and the Jewish state on Wednesday [26 October], official sources said Sunday.

The sources said the king will not visit Israel until after Parliament ratifies the peace treaty, which was initialed last Monday.

The government will present the draft treaty to Parliament for ratification after it is signed by Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali. Upon ratification, King Husayn will sign it into law.

Parliamentary sources confirmed that there was enough support for the treaty in the Lower House of Parliament, which will ratify it despite fierce opposition from Islamists and some pan-Arabist and leftist deputies.

Mr. Clinton will go to Israel after visiting Syria on Thursday. News reports have earlier suggested that King Husayn might accompany the U.S. President on a visit to Israel during which he will address the Israeli Knesset.

The speaker of the Knesset has invited King Husayn to address the Israeli legislature and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has repeatedly issued similar invitations for the king to visit Israel. The king then said that he would visit the Jewish state when the time was right, but, except for saying that the trip could materialise soon, he never specified a date.

Meanwhile, two days before the arrival of President Clinton, details of his one-day trip here remain sketchy and unclear.

Though officials refuse to confirm any details because they say the schedule could change, reports said Mr. Clinton will arrive in al-'Aqabah from Egypt Wednesday morning.

After meeting with the King, Mr. Clinton will attend the signing ceremony and have lunch in al-'Aqabah before visiting Petra and then flying to Amman. The U.S. President is expected to spend the night in Amman before leaving for Syria Thursday, but it is still not clear whether he will address Parliament during his first visit to the Kingdom or speak to a selected group of Jordanians at the al- Hashimiyah Palace, before he attends a state banquet in his honor.

Officials, meanwhile, said the site of the signing ceremony was almost ready to receive the thousands of guests and officials who will attend the ceremony in the desert location a few kilometers north of al-'Aqabah.

Head of the al'Aqabah Region Authority Fayiz al-Khasawinah said a 14-dunum area has been prepared for the ceremony, with work nearing completion on park that could accommodate 2,000 vehicles and a landing area for six helicopters.

Flags and banners will bedeck the street connecting al-'Aqabah to the site. There was no information of whether similar signs of festivities will be visible in Amman.

Treaty Signing Site Reported 'Almost Ready'

JN2310075994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—The site that will host the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli

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treaty north of al-'Aqabah is almost ready, President of the al-'Aqabah Region Authority Fayiz al-Khasawnah said Saturday [22 October]. Dr. al-Khasawnah, who is also acting al-'Aqabah governor, said a 14-dunum-area was prepared to host the ceremony, and in addition work on preparing a parking lot that can accommodate 2,000 cars and a landing area for six helicopters was finished. He said the road linking the site with al-'Aqabah was also bedecked with flags and banners. The treaty will be signed in front of U.S. President Bill Clinton and a host of other guests on the Israeli-Jordanian border near al-'Aqabah. President Clinton will not address the Jordanian Parliament when he visits the Kingdom to attend the signing, a senior official said. "There are no plans for President Clinton to address the Jordanian Parliament," the Jordanian official told AFP, asking not to be named.

Minister Names Foreign Officials To Attend Ceremony

JN2310170594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said the wide Arab and world participation in the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty on Wednesday [26 October] reflects the historic importance of this event. This came in a statement made to our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti. The minister of state also discussed the Foreign Ministry's preparations for this ceremony.

[Begin al-Hasan recording] [passage omitted] A number of foreign ministers and dignitaries have expressed their desire to participate in this ceremony. Most prominent among these dignitaries are the foreign ministers of Russia, Egypt, Qatar, Tunisia, Canada, Austria, Brazil, and Italy.

We also received a positive response from Jacques Delors, president of the Commission of the European Communities. Naturally, the U.S. secretary of state will arrive with the U.S. president who will participate in this ceremony.

Responses to the invitations I sent in the name of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan continue to be received at the Foreign Ministry, and this will continue over the next two days right up to the time of this historic event. [end recording]

Second Crossing Point Complete, Set To Open

NC2410114794 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 24 (AFP)—Jordan has finished construction work on the second crossing point with Israel, the Shaykh Husayn bridge which is set to open within a week, an authorized source said here Monday [24 October].

The source said the 40-meter span bridge is designed to link the northern parts of Jordan and Israel, which sign a peace treaty Wednesday.

The steel bridge spanning the two banks of Jordan River near its confluence with the al-Yarmuk River is built on two-level beams and seated on two concrete pillars, one on each side.

A Jordanian official told AFP earlier that Shaykh Husayn bridge and the al-'Arabah crossing point in the south would serve as the two main exit and entry points for Israeli and Jordanian travellers.

He said the border would open officially on November 1, six days after Israel and Jordan sign the peace treaty.

On August 8, Israel and Jordan inaugurated the al-'Arabah border post near the Red Sea resort of al-'Aqabah but it has so far been restricted to third country nationals.

The post was opened under the July 25 Washington peace declaration which formally ended a 46-year state of war between Jordan and Israel.

Work on the Shaykh Husayn bridge began in August, and it was tentatively slated to open mid-October. The postponement was attributed to Israel's delay in laying the concrete foundation.

The new bridge is erected near the old Shaykh Husayn bridge, which was partially blown up in 1948 in the wake of the first Arab-Israeli war. In 1967, the bridge, constructed during the British mandate, received further hits from Israeli jets and went out of use.

Reconstruction work included building a 4.5-kilometer (three-mile) road linking the bridge with the nearest town on the Jordanian side and laying down the infrastructure for tourism, customs, police and other services.

Al-Majali on Jerusalem as 'Palestine' Capital

JN2310132994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has emphasized that Jordan seeks to have Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, and that Jordan has supported the Palestinians with all its capabilities.

He said the Hashemites' relationship with Jerusalem is an old one and that Jordan has long shouldered the responsibility for the holy shrines. When Jerusalem was occupied in 1967, Israel agreed to let Jordan continue to supervise the holy shrines, and Jordan willingly accepted this, he said.

During his visit to the Ministry of Youth this morning, where he chaired the weekly meeting of heads of departments, with Minister of Youth Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam attending, Dr. al-Majali said: When the disengagement [of administrative and legal links with the West Bank] decision was made in 1988, the PLO asked Jordan to continue its religious jurisdiction, and

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Jordan continued to repair and maintain the shrines and pay the salaries of awqaf [Islamic endowments] workers.

The prime minister added that Israel claims that Jerusalem is its perpetual capital. On this basis, religious jurisdiction is very important and a vacuum in responsibility for the shrines cannot be allowed, especially since discussions on the subject of Jerusalem are being delayed and the political dimension of the holy city is covered by Security Council Resolution 242.

He said that Jordan has no interest or ambition other than keeping Jerusalem an Arab and Islamic city.

On the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, Dr. al-Majali said Jordan has not compromised its constants, its rights to land and water, its security, or a settlement to the refugee problem. He said the Jordanian land will be under Jordanian sovereignty, adding that some of the challenges that we will face in the next stage will be directing our projects toward production, increasing productivity, and encouraging investment.

Prince Hasan Reacts To Criticism of Treaty

JN2210071694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1809 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Speech by Crown Prince Hasan at a meeting with officers of the 3d Royal Armored Division, 5th Royal Armored Division, and Military Mufti Department on 21 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful. I would like to begin my speech by relaying the greetings of his majesty the supreme commander to all of you. I would also like to reiterate that demonstrating awareness; showing eagerness to learn accurate, correct, and legitimate information; and scrutinizing and carefully examining what is being said and published now and during the weeks, months, and years to follow regarding the new phase heralded in our life are all of crucial importance. [passage omitted]

What I would like to say is that in 1994, almost one century after the start of the Arab-Zionist conflict, talk of Zionist expansion east of the River Jordan has now become a thing of the past. Likewise, the talk of undermining the national identity east of the River Jordan has subsided. Similarly, I would like to say again that Jordan's role in this part of the world is a pivotal one. But, under no circumstances can we claim that we speak on behalf of the Arab nation. We have made an effort, and will continue to make an effort to create at least the minimum of coordination. When we make political decisions, we do not make such decisions with certain people in mind. Our decisions reflect only our convictions. Nobody in the Arab world expects any other Arab party to speak on his behalf at this point in time, a time in which we have seen the desire to for joint and collective decisions diminish. For this, I blame no one in particular. Nonetheless, I would like to say that anyone placing the blame on us in this regard must also be fair. They must recall that this country, under its leadership, has always taken the lead in extending a helping hand, and in seeking coordination with whomever wanted such help or such coordination. What has taken place over the past few years, particularly since the convocation of the Madrid conference and the Gulf crisis of 1990, dealt a harsh blow to Arab solidarity. This blow might indeed be deemed fatal in terms of the impact and consequences of the Gulf war. This political state of affairs produced an international initiative crowned in Madrid, when dozens of countries interested in making peace in this part of the world met. [passage omitted]

Moreover, I would like to recall that this period also witnessed political activities on the Syrian scene. For many years, there has been a great deal of talk about the importance and political leverage of Damascus in terms of regional political moves. The arguments directed to us usually revolved around the question of whether Jordan's will would be capable of resisting the pressure of certain Arab parties. These arguments even called into question the very existence of a Jordanian will with regard to political moves. They almost called into question Jordan's unity of ranks, as well as Jordan's ability to build its political future.

I would like to say that Jordan's recent moves were not directed against anybody, nor were they malicious moves. As a matter of fact, we have been true to our convictions that Jordan's moves must remain connected with its basic constants. The first of these constants concerns Jordanian territory. We have sought to address this issue without undermining the status of the areas occupied in 1967. For, international law and our conscience require us to constantly recall that there are areas that were occupied in 1967. I will later address the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. I would like to say here that this legitimate international position is a legal milestone that must be noted in this regard.

Another basic constant of our policy concerns water, and obtaining recognition of Jordan's rights to the waters of the al- Yarmuk River, particularly since Jordan's share of these waters east of the river has been restored in full, thanks to these negotiations. I am underscoring here the waters of the al-Yarmuk River, because there are two dimensions to the water issue in Jordan, the first of which is dealing with Israel, whereas the second concerns water consumption by the residents and citizens of the occupied territories. The third basic constant of our policy is security. As you are well aware, some Israeli political schools of thought have, for many years, advocated expansion. In this regard, I would like to note the slogan Jordan is Palestine. Given this, it was imperative that the Jordanian negotiators reaffirm the fact that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is part of the Arab nation, that it is committed to the agreements signed within the framework of the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization, and that in no way can it agree to divorce itself from this political and economic fold.

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Moreover, Jordan is ready to commit itself to reciprocal security to safeguard its own right of self-defense. [passage omitted]

Over the past few months, when we saw that the other side—after three years of negotiations—was demonstrating a serious desire to make progress, we publicly announced that we would not commit ourselves to any delay if there was a real opportunity to regain Jordan's rights. We explained this issue and held contacts on it with the concerned Arab capitals. Consequently, we expected favorable reactions, especially from the Palestinian brethren. We expected the Palestinians to demonstrate seriousness in their commitments to the agreements they have signed with us. We expected these agreements to serve as a Jordanian Arab lifeline for them east of the River Jordan.

With regard to the treaty, I would like to reiterate that this treaty is characterized by one basic trait that makes it different from the Oslo accord and the Camp David accords. This trait concerns the fact that no one has mediated this treaty. No external party has forced any draft, formula, or conception on us. We have not sought the help of Norway or the United States in this regard. We spared ourselves external influence when we took the lead in underscoring the need to learn the details of what is taking place around us. This course was manifested when we signed the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement one day after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. This course was also observed when we took part in the conference held by donor nations to support the peace process. For, our participation in this conference had been ruled out. This course was also pursued when the Washington Declaration was announced to confirm that there is an independent Jordanian course in terms of regional developments. [passage omitted]

I would like to say that the issue of refugees is a Palestinian issue, whose discussion has been deferred until 1996. Some parties might seek to create confusion. A telephone conversation has been held with the leader of the Israeli Likud opposition. To the best of my knowledge, the news of this contact was published in local dailies today. During this contact, Netanyahu extended his congratulations to me, saying that he wanted to read the text of the treaty before making a final judgment on it. As we are well aware, the Israeli opposition initially opposed the Oslo accord, but expressed support for it after reading it. This has prompted me to contact some opposition figures here in Jordan to ask why they are opposing and condemning the treaty, and calling for the liberation of the homeland from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Arabian] Gulf before knowing anything about the accomplishment achieved. Does Islamic doctrine preach that positions should be taken before a thorough examination of developments is made? [passage omitted]

With regard to the Islamic injunction prohibiting vituperation, it has been overlooked by some people. People who lack forceful arguments resort to swearing and vituperations. But, one's code of ethics should not allow one to engage in a war of words. If the issue at stake concerns discipline on the level of the community, it goes without saying that we are capable of resorting to legal means to maintain discipline. It is our strong hope that we will manage in the Jordanian household to maintain a balanced outlook.

A new approach that is noticeable in this treaty has to do with efforts to create a civil and economic balance, not to mention the protection of a military identity. For, according to this agreement, we have not allowed Israeli to neutralize our abilities to defend ourselves. [passage omitted]

At first glance, some might note the Israeli farmlands allowed to remain in place. They exist on a wasteland that the Israelis reclaimed in the aftermath of the 1967 war. Some of the farmlands are not cultivated in all seasons. With regard to their soil, they are of medium quality. I would like to refute the statements that the land tracts granted us in the context of the border demarcation were bad, or below the acceptable level. Both sides conceded territory. I believe that in the absence of soil surveys, it might take laymen many years to determine that the equation regarding the border demarcation and territorial exchange has been good. [passage omitted]

For the first time, the kingdom's borders are clearly delineated. The same holds true for the borders of Israel, which used to have expansionist ambitions. [passage omitted]

With regard to water resources, it was the Jordanian negotiators' dream to restore water quantities, the minimum of which stood at 100 million cubic meters, and the maximum of which was 200 million cubic meters. [passage omitted]

With regard to the issue of free trade, I would like to assert that Jordan has not taken the lead in lifting the Arab boycott of Israel. For example, the Gulf states have announced a revocation of the Arab boycott, and so have Tunisia and Morocco, who established bilateral ties with Israel. The volume of trade between the Gulf nations and Israel exceeds $500 million at present. Consequently, it was unreasonable for Jordan to remain fettered by announced and unannounced trade agreements. Similarly, it was unreasonable for Jordan to open its markets for absolutely free trade with Israel and the United States. Let us recall once again that the United States is putting pressures on us in this regard. [passage omitted]

During the latest round of talks, the Palestinian negotiators asked us to close our banks in the occupied territories so that we may negotiate with them once again to seek their permission to reopen the banks again. We told them that we do not have the luxury of doing such a thing. If you want us to close our banks, let us sever the other aspects of our ties. The decision in this regard is

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theirs. As a matter of fact, we distinguish in our minds between dealing with the Palestinian leadership and dealing with the Palestinian people. It is our hope that the Palestinian people will not be harmed by measures on our part that could be portrayed as malicious moves.

I would like to reiterate once again that the fabrication of battles with Jordan is not in anybody's interest. The constant efforts to control, and expand the spheres of influence are now economic and social—whether we like it or not—and regardless of the vituperations that might be used, the condemnations that might be announced, or the rejection that might be expressed. [passage omitted]

With regard to the Iraq issue, I would like to recall that the Iraqis acted in 1990 without consulting anybody. Nonetheless, we expressed the conviction that the solution must emerge from the region itself. I met with the Iraqi delegation in New York a few weeks ago. We agreed on the need to change the international community's stand toward the sanctions. You also recall that the Turkish president has visited Jordan. Then, we publicly spoke on the need to reinstate Iraq within the international community of nations. I also addressed the UN General Assembly on the need to recognize the sovereignty of all Gulf states, and not to interfere in their domestic affairs. But, regrettably, we were once again surprised by the Iraqi moves, which elicited an international buildup in the Gulf region.

It is my strong hope that you will demonstrate awareness, good citizenship, and a sense of responsibility. This should prompt you to think carefully before telling others what they can or cannot do. Similarly, we must adapt to developments. We must demonstrate initiative, self-confidence, and pride, as the supreme commander always says.

IAF on Treaty, Clinton Visit to Parliament

JN2210084494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn will today open the second ordinary session of the Lower House which will be dominated by debate of the peace treaty that the Kingdom will sign with Israel on Wednesday.

The speech from the Throne, which King Husayn will deliver, will explain the implications of the peace treaty which will be later presented to parliament for ratification before it is signed by the King into law.

All indications are that the session will witness heated debate over the treaty but even Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies say the accord has support among the 80 members of the House. According to reliable parliamentary sources, the treaty enjoys the support of some 55 members of the Lower House.

Having reconciled themselves to their inability to abort the treaty, IAF officials say they will focus their efforts on blocking any steps towards normalisation of ties with Israel after the treaty is signed.

IAF Secretary Ishaq al-Farhan said the treaty poses grave dangers to the nation and the Islamists will work on exposing its dangers to the people as they fight normalisation.

IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur said: "We will resist the treaty with all the power that we have" but stressed that the IAF will only employ constitutional and democratic means in its fight against the treaty which he described as "a catastrophe for the country."

But despite their conviction that the majority of lawmakers will support the treaty, Islamists deputies said they will lobby their colleagues to block its ratification.

"We urge all deputies to vote against the treaty," leading IAF deputy 'Abdallah al-'Akaylih said as Mr. Mansur stressed that fighting peace with Israel is a duty that lawmakers have to shoulder.

While Islamist leaders said they are still studying their options on how to fight the treaty, they indicated that they will not withdraw from Parliament which they said should continue to have opposition to the peace process.

The Parliamentary sources said the Islamists constitute the majority of deputies who oppose the treaty and could be joined by some leftist and pan-Arabist lawmakers. But they said the Islamists know they do not have a chance to defeat it.

Over 50 deputies have already expressed their support to the developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace negotiations in a letter they sent to King Husayn upon the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25.

"I am in favour of activating the role of the House and in putting deputies in front of their national responsibilities," against peace with Israel, said Mr. Mansur. [passage omitted]

Responding to the possibility of having U.S. President Bill Clinton address Parliament, the Islamic leaders all said Mr. Clinton "is not welcome in Jordan," but stressed that they have not yet reached a decision on how to express their position.

President "Clinton is the enemy of the Arab and Muslim nation," said Mr. Mansur. "I will not be honoured to sit with him in the same room."

Dr. Sa'id [IAF parliamentary deputy] also confirmed that the IAF has not yet decided whether to boycott the session in which Mr. Clinton could address Parliament, but said he and other members of the IAF will not attend even if the front decides not to boycott.

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Dr. Sa'id said he considered the visit of Mr. Clinton to Jordan "A provocation against the people." Dr. al-Farhan, who is considered to be among the most moderate Islamists, reiterated his colleagues' position that Mr. Clinton "is not welcome in Jordan."

"We reserve the right to choose our method of expressing our rejection of Mr. Clinton's entry to the House. We will either boycott the session or make Mr. Clinton know how we feel about him," said Mr. Mansur.

In addition to the peace process, the second session of the House will address a number of draft legislations. In the first session, the House approved 30 draft laws which included the sales tax law, the municipalities law and the tenancy law.

IAF To Boycott Possible Clinton Speech

JN2410111594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) on Sunday [23 October] decided to boycott U.S. President Bill Clinton's possible address to Parliament in expression of its rejection of the peace process and Mr. Clinton's visit to the kingdom.

Leading IAF Deputy Hammam Sa'id told the JORDAN TIMES the 16-member parliamentary bloc of the IAF took the decision unanimously during a meeting Sunday.

Boycotting the session was one of two options the front was considering to convey its stand on the visit of Mr. Clinton to Jordan to attend the signing ceremony of a peace treaty with Israel on Wednesday.

The other option was to attend the session and "make Clinton know how we feel about him as enemy of the Arab and Muslim nation," as IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur had told the JORDAN TIMES earlier.

The U.S.-educated Dr. Sa'id said the bloc opted for boycotting the session because it was not clear how the Islamist deputies could convey to the U.S. President their position that he is not welcome in Jordan.

Dr. Sa'id said the bloc would hold a press conference as Mr. Clinton addresses Parliament to let him know of the IAF's rejection of the peace treaty and their feelings against him.

Mr. Mansur said in a statement that IAF deputies hope that the U.S. Administration would "understand that this position is a protest message against its policies against peoples so that it will reconsider those policies" which only help in winning the U.S. the enmity of other nations.

It is also a message that peace which does not correspond with the interests of the people and which does not lead to the regaining of their lands and rights will not last, he said.

Mr. Mansur also said the IAF position was prompted by the U.S. "hostile policies against Islamic movements" through rallying opposition to them and supporting "dictatorships in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria" against them.

Mr. Mansur, who was a member of an official parliamentary delegation that visited the U.S. this summer, had told the JORDAN TIMES the Islamist deputies "begged Mr. Clinton not to come to Parliament so as not to "embarrass us and make us embarrass him."

The IAF has not yet decided, however, on whether it will withdraw its deputies from Parliament in protest against the expected ratification of the peace treaty by the Lower House of Parliament which has a majority of peace supporters.

Mr. Mansur said their decision would depend on how the government treats the opposition and on whether it further encroaches on what he called "what is left of democracy."

The IAF members appeared aware of their limitations in influencing Jordan's move towards peace with Israel but are still determined to "employ all the power we have" to block the ratification of the peace treaty with the Jewish state.

But opposition to the treaty will only be expressed in democratic, constitutional and lawful manners, IAF leaders stressed.

They said they would fight the peace treaty in Parliament, at the party and popular levels. IAF members have reportedly been attacking the treaty during the religious sermons at mosques.

Mr. Mansur said the IAF will also be organising rallies to express their rejection of peace with Israel, stressing that rallies are a legal means of expressing points of view in Jordan.

Mr. Mansur was forceful in stressing Islamists will not tolerate additional alleged encroachment by the government on their democratic rights, saying the bloc "leaves all its options open" to deal with such developments.

The opposition accuses the government of preventing anti-negotiations rallies after the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25. The Islamists strongly attacked the government for that, saying it was blocking their views from reaching the people.

The Islamists' "battle" against the peace treaty in Parliament received a major blow Saturday when the IAF failed to win any leadership position in speakership elections.

The candidate behind whom they put their weight for the speakership of the House lost his bid to pro-peace Deputy Sa'd Hayil al-Surur and so did their candidate for the first deputy speaker of the House lose to peace supporter 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali.

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However, this will not stop the IAF deputies from raising a lot of noise in protest against the treaty, with IAF members saying they will do everything possible to polarise opposition to peace with Israel under one banner.

But parliamentary sources said the IAF stands no chance of defeating the treaty in Parliament no matter how much effort they put into the fight.

'Tough Confrontation' Over Treaty Seen in Parliament

JN2310090294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Oct 94 pp 1, 2

["News Analysis" by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament on Saturday [22 October] gave a clear indication of where the majority of its members stand on the peace process in the first meeting of its second ordinary session by defeating two bids by the Islamists to assume leadership positions at the legislature and electing a pro-peace speaker.

So did the House's minority make clear the hardline policy it will follow in the four-month session, when six members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) boycotted the opening session which was opened by His Majesty King Husayn.

All indications are that the various political shades in the legislature are heading for a tough confrontation over the peace process though parliamentary sources say that the peace proponents will have the upper hand.

The election of centrist Deputy Sa'd Hayil al-Surur as a speaker of the House is a victory for the centrist trend which is the dominant power in the legislature, influential Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti (al-'Aqabah) said.

And the absence of six deputies from the opening session was definitely "connected to the peace process," IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur, who was among the absent lawmakers, told the JORDAN TIMES.

"Those who attended the session studied their decision. Those who did not also studied their decision," he said.

Islamist lawmakers, who were also kept away from the position of the first deputy speaker, with their candidate losing to the head of centrist and pro-peace Al-'Ahd Party, 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, seemed aware of their inability to influence the position of the House but stressed that this will not stop them from "fighting the peace treaty with all the power we have."

Parliamentary sources say the opponents of the peace process, who include some leftist and pan-Arabist deputies in addition to the IAF, will be able to cause the government a lot of headache but will not be able to block the peace treaty.

The sources say that the peace treaty will be approved by 55-60 deputies when the government presents it to Parliament for ratification as a draft law. But they say the ratification will not take place before the Islamists launch virulent attacks against it.

The attacks will be meant to state a position rather than change the course of events, analysts say. Parliament will provide the Islamists with a forum in which they can speak as strongly as they could against the peace process after a long period in which they said the government blocked their view from reaching the people, they said.

Mr. Mansur agrees that Parliament will "provide a very good opportunity" for the IAF to express its views.

"We will employ all constitutional and democratic means to fight the treaty," Mr. Mansur said, adding that Parliament will be only one of the arenas in which they will launch their campaign against the treaty.

But if the government "denies us the democratic channels for expressing our position, all our options will be open," he said.

These options, according to Mr. Mansur and other Islamist leaders, include withdrawal from Parliament.

"The democratic process has been reversed to dangerous proportions," contended Mr. Mansur, warning that if the government tries to "encroach more on the democratic process," the Islamists will respond through all available means.

"We will fight the treaty in Parliament, as a party and on the people's level," he said.

Though the legislature will not include the treaty on its agenda until it is formally presented to it by the government, the IAF deputies have shown enough signs that the peace process is their major priority at the current session of the House.

When Mr. al-Surur spoke of the peace treaty during his victory speech Saturday, IAF Deputy Bassam al-'Umush, (Zarqa) immediately took the floor and demanded that the speaker not mention the treaty.

IAF leaders say that while they will do everything they can to block the ratification of the treaty, their focus will also be on fighting legislation that will be necessitated by it in the future.

That includes any legislation to make it illegal to speak of Arab rights in historical Palestine, a fear that IAF hawkish member Hammam Sa'id believes is realistic.

Countering the Islamists will be those centrist deputies who will insist that the treaty serves the interests of the Kingdom and falls in line with its declared stands and principles.

Those deputies will argue that the treaty was concluded in terms that satisfy the Kingdom's demands for its

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rights in land and water and was reached after the Palestinians went their own way in negotiating peace with Israel.

Mr. al-Surur emphasised this point Saturday when he said Jordan has given all the support it could give to the Palestinians and noted the Palestine Liberation Organisation's choice to act as the only representative of the Palestinian people and negotiate with Israel on its own.

Being the majority in the House as the election of the speaker and his deputies proved Saturday, those deputies will have their view prevail and the government can sit relaxed that the treaty will be ratified, parliamentary sources said.

One opinion in the House was that opposition of the Islamists could be reduced by bringing them into the system through giving them leadership positions in the House in order to remove the feeling that they are marginalised. But this view did not seem to carry enough weight as the elections for the deputy speaker in fact showed.

At any rate, "there will be no hurdles in the face of ratifying the treaty," Said Mr.al-Kabariti.

Until that happens, however, indications are that other duties of the House will take a back seat. The Islamists will try to prolong the debate as long as they can. The pro-peace deputies will try to shorten it as much as they can. With a majority of treaty supporters who have the speaker on their side, the centrists stand a good chance to prevail.

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Clinton Visit Seen as 'Acknowledgment' of Role

JN2310182794 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1620 GMT 23 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH underlines the importance and indications of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Damascus. The paper says that the U.S. President's assertion that peace cannot be achieved in the region without Syria is a clear and explicit acknowledgment of leader al-Asad's role and sound orientation toward a just, comprehensive peace, which does not concern the region only, but also the entire world.

Referring to leader al-Asad's role and stands on the peace process and the penetrations that have affected it, AL-BA'TH says that this role was and will remain a basic role without which no peace can be achieved.

Concluding its editorial, the paper reiterates that Syria is committed to a just, comprehensive peace, and that it will seek such peace through the U.S. initiative, on the basis of which Syria is looking forward to achieving peace.

On the same subject, TISHRIN says that the U.S. President's visit to Syria later this week constitutes an acknowledgment of Syria's basic role in the Middle East. This has been asserted by President Clinton when he said that Syria is an important state in the region and that its participation in the peace process is vital for the attainment of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The paper recalls President al-Asad's famous appeal for peace of the brave during his meeting with President Clinton in Geneva, a peace requiring Israel's total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: A genuine just, comprehensive peace is the only guarantee for security. Occupation cannot in any way constitute a guarantee for Israel. Rather, the occupation is a source of tension. No Arab country, even if its rulers acquiesce, accepts that its territory remain under occupation or that it be leased. No Arab accepts the continuation of the current policy of repression. If a genuine peace is linked to justice, it is also linked to dignity, something that Syria has always underlined.

Tel Aviv 'Operation' Said To Prove 'Fragility'

JN2110183794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by Ibrahim Basyuni]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: The fedayeen operation carried out by the intifadah youths in the heart of Palestinian territories occupied in 1948, and in the heart of Tel Aviv, and in which more than 22 Israelis were killed and 48 others were wounded—was part of a series of operations targeting the Zionist soldiers and settlers in response to the contining Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, and the Israeli occupation authorities' policy of terrorism and repression against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

This operation, and the preceding operations in Jerusalem, Gaza, and other occupied West Bank cities, have confirmed an established fact, which is still disregarded by the Tel Aviv rulers; namely, that there will be no peace, security, and stability for the Israelis as long as Israel occupies one inch of Arab territory, and as long as the settlements are still planted in the occupied Arab territories. Peace and occupation cannot coexist. This fact is confirmed by the continuous resistance operations throughout the occupied Arab territories, whether in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1948, or in southern Lebanon. If the Tel Aviv rulers still ignore this fact and do not recognize it, then this will not deceive anyone, even the Israeli society itself. Based on this, the region will not enjoy security and stability, neither will peace prevail in the region as long as Israel adheres to its occupation of the Arab territories and to the policy of settlement and Judaization, and as long as it is continuing its policy of repression and terrorism against the Arab citizens, and defying the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the UN Security Council on whose bases the peace process was launched.

The Tel Aviv operation has proved the fragility of the separate agreements and treaties Israel has concluded with the PLO. These agreements, treaties, and deals have not brought and will never bring security, stability, and peace to the Israelis as long as Israel insists on keeping the Arab territories, and adheres to the policy of annexation, Judaization, and maintaining settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Security and peace must be comprehensive and just, and not confined to the Israelis alone without our Arab people. There will be no security for the Israelis in the absence of security and peace for our Arab people. There will be no peace for the Israelis as long as our Palestinian Arab people are exposed to occupation, injustice, and persecution by the Israeli authorities. Our Arab people, represented by their heroic intifadah, will never accept anything short of the elimination of occupation, and its aggressive and expansionist effects and pillars, particularly the removal of settlements from their homeland. This was confirmed by the Tel Aviv operation and the other continuous resistance operations against the Zionist soldiers and settlers, which have not stopped and will never stop as long as the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories continues.

Separate Agreements Said Unable To Bring Peace

JN2110153394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1231 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Current events and developments in the region have proved that partial and separate solutions do not bring security, peace, and stability. The solutions and agreements some sides consider integrated peace agreements are actually unilateral agreements that have been of no use to the Arabs. The only side that has benefited from those agreements and treaties is Israel. Although past experience showed decisively that such agreements and treaties cannot achieve the aspired peace, parties to these agreements have insisted on reaching them. We in Syria, as leader al-Asad said, consider the action of some sides which abandoned Arab coordination, a grave mistake. However, we will neither support nor oppose their action in a tangible material way. We firmly believe that the Arab sides which embarked on separate agreements have weakened their positions. The daily results prove this.

Syria, from the very beginning of the peace process, and in fact a long time before that, has been saying yes for a just and comprehensive peace, and yes to joint Arab action for the sake of restoring land and rights. Syria has exerted immense efforts to achieve this objective. At any rate, we, in Syria, will continue to work for a just and comprehensive peace. We will do all that is possible to achieve this objective. However, we want peace that fulfills the aspirations and hopes of our nation and people, a just peace that protects rights, regains the occupied land, and safeguards national dignity. We want peace not the Israeli way, but peace that is in harmony with the pan-Arab character. We are fully aware of what Israel wants. Undoubtedly, one way or another Israel has disclosed some of its intentions. It seems that it feels it has achieved some of what it wants, whether through the separate and partial agreements, or through the multilateral talks, the talks that have given everything to Israel without anything in return. Here, we would like to point to a fact that must be realized by all sides, particularly Israel; namely, that what has thus far happened is not true peace, and the results might be completely the opposite. In light of this, we believe that it is better to go back to the roots of the conflict; namely, the issue of land. When Israel abides by the resolutions of international legitimacy that call for a full and comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, we can then say that the region has actually begun to head toward a true peace, peace that means security and stability. We reiterate that the contracts of submission and separate agreements will not achieve security, stability, or peace. Here, leader al-Asad's dictum that peoples can never be for capitulation, is lent credence.

Coordination with Lebanon, 'No Concessions' Urged

JN2210085694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary headlined "No Concessions, No Deals," AL-THAWRAH says that Damascus will remain the center of effective Arab action and the bold mastermind concerned about the interests of the Arab nation. Damascus will remain the voice warning against the dangers of policies disregarding national and Arab rights—policies that have enabled Israel to penetrate the Arab homeland in implementation of Zionist schemes at the expense of Arab states' interests.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that during his visit to sisterly Egypt, President al-Asad stressed that peace is a strategic option and that peace must be comprehensive. He also said that Syria rejects separate deals contradicting the principles of a comprehensive solution, and that Syria is committed to continued coordination with Lebanon in the peace battle with Israel.

AL-THAWRAH asks: What can be said about an agreement that leads to leasing land and ceding rights? President al-Asad's response to this question was clear-cut, dismissing any compromises. He said nobody will hear from us anything that contradicts what we have been saying all the time: Our land is ours. We deem it heretical for any country to speak about leasing its territory to other entities.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH reiterates President al-Asad's words: Whoever takes a unilateral course and discusses issues in isolation from other Arabs will not weaken the other Arabs. Rather, he will weaken his own position. This is a fact that has been proven by the unfolding results.

In an editorial headlined "Syria and Lebanon: One Position," TISHRIN says that the Syrian and Lebanese leaders never fail to stress coordination between the two sisterly countries and the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process. This is in view of their belief that coordination is an asset and that unified stands will enable the two countries to restore their occupied territories. In addition, coordination reflects their inseparable relationship.

The paper adds that in its endeavors, Syria proceeds from the deep conviction that only the unity of Arab positions can confront Israel's schemes and maneuvers, especially since Israel has made it a policy to seek separate deals with the Arabs, offering temptations and vague promises.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria is an important regional power, and that nobody in the world is unaware of that fact. When Syria urged the brethren to unify their stands and continue coordination among them, it indeed placed all its resources to serve the demands of the brethren and the restoration of their lands and rights. It was they who lost as a result of their breaking coordination with Syria. Thus, the Palestinian people's case has become more complicated, and peace now seems to be a shelved project.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Thus, only Syria and Lebanon have remained together. The two countries are

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determined to continue the march together. President al-Asad declared: We will remain together. Neither of us will agree to take a separate course, especially since we share the same destiny. We want peace. We are both seriously working to achieve peace.

Position Said Not Weakened by Separate Agreements

JN2210165194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 22 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Mistaken is the one who thinks that separate partial agreements weaken Syria or its position despite the serious negative effects inequitable agreements have on the general Arab situation and the nation's fateful causes.

Syria, which never doubted that the peace battle would be complicated and difficult, wanted to engage in this battle with one Arab vision and a unified Arab position in order to achieve one objective; namely, ending the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories, regaining the Palestinian Arab people's rights, and achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

As President Hafiz al-Asad said at the opening session of the People's Assembly's sixth legislative term, Syria—which has confidence in itself and enjoys the trust of its nation—wanted the Arab negotiating parties to derive strength from Syria's strength. It also wanted to help these parties. Thus, Syria adhered to the principle of consultations and coordination with the Arab parties participating in the peace process.

As the president told journalists at the end of his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Syria spoke in broad daylight and not in the dark. Syria said it wants a just and comprehensive peace and adopted the method of consultations, coordination, and the exchange of views with other parties. However, some parties chose their way away from coordination.

As leader al-Asad said, everyone who separately discussed his own issues away from other Arabs did not weaken other Arabs; he actually weakened his own position. The results are now confirming this fact they are trying to conceal with a feeble cover of applause for separate agreements. However, what accompanied and followed this in terms of bloody events and tragic developments prompts us to contemplate the nature of these agreements and to earnestly study the imbalance resulting from partial agreements that disappoint people.

Peace that is imposed on certain persons under certain circumstances cannot be accepted by the people. It is not a durable peace. No one doubts Israel's responsibility for all events, for aggravating the situation, and for escalating violence due to its adherence to the occupation of the territories and its attempts to impose humiliating settlements. These settlements could not achieve security and peace because they were not the people's just demands regarding territory and sovereignty.

Instead of searching for a just and comprehensive peace that will respond to the resolutions of international legitimacy, return rights to their owners, convince the regional peoples of its fairness, and safeguard everyone's interests and dignity, Israel is pushing the peace process toward the unknown through self-deception and by misleading others into believing that what has been achieved is a model for peace that should be followed on other tracks.

Naturally, Syria—whose credible positions and peace attitudes have been confirmed by the peace process—would not have agreed to open the way for this process since it was unleashed in Madrid had it not been convinced that peace would restore its entire territory and full rights. As President Hafiz al-Asad said, Syria will continue to support a comprehensive solution and will continue to be alongside those who advocate this position. Actually, only Syria and Lebanon are left. We will certainly be together, and neither one will agree to depart from the other. Moreover, our vision will continue to be the same regarding the one objective; namely, regaining the Golan, southern Lebanon, western al-Biqa', and rights in accordance with the international legitimacy. We are fully confident that peace can either be just and comprehensive or not exist at all.

Adherence to Bases of Peace Process Urged

JN2310160394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 23 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: When Syria voiced its adherence to the bases and principles of the peace process and worked honestly within the framework of the peace process and international legitimacy, it did so out of eagerness to establish the foundations of a just, comprehensive peace, taking into consideration that any peace must be durable so that it can be adhered to and defended rather than deserted by peoples. Therefore, the penetrations that have taken place in Arab ranks—or rather Arab rights—have proved the credibility of the Syrian position and the soundness of Syria's peace approach, which is based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions and on the principles on which the peace process was launched at the Madrid conference three years ago.

Taking into consideration the accelerating developments in the Arab arena and the penetrations which have affected the core of the crucial regional issue and undermined the most basic Arab rights, Syria and Lebanon—the most important factor in the equation of peace—will adhere to the principles and bases governing the peace process, no matter what the price may be, and regardless of the time involved. Time will reveal the facts concealed

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by some and deliberately and premeditatedly ignored by others. In sum, whoever has taken a separate course and held negotiations and made peace in isolation from other Arabs, he—as President al-Asad said—has not weakened other Arabs, but weakened his own position. Consequently, in this case, the most prominent outcome of weakness is a further slide down into danger and the unknown. In order for the cause of peace not to turn into a means that can be used by those who want to evade the demands of their peoples and the requirements of a just peace, we reiterate that it was Syria that opened the path of peace when it approved the U.S. initiative, which is based on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace formula. The entire world now understands Syria's vision of peace. Peace is not subject to bargains. It will never be at the expense of land. As far as the land is concerned, there will be no compromise. Syria will never cede an iota of its national soil nor any of its legitimate rights that have been approved by relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Syria has appreciated and will appreciate the role of the institutions of international legitimacy seeking to establish a just peace, as well as the effort of the main sponsor of the peace process to establish a just, comprehensive peace. The U.S. Administration and all effective international powers have stressed their profound appreciation of Syria's key and pivotal role if peace is to be just and durable. Hence we can reiterate that the gaps in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are in fact one big gap existing in the Israeli stand, which still rejects the principle of trading land for peace and refuses to announce its intention to withdraw from the occupied territories.

When half the fact is clear and the other half is concealed by the mentality of invasion and peace in the interest of one party, then what is required is for the world and particularly the U.S. and Russian cosponsors to contribute to clarifying the other half. Such a move would not only display concern for regional peace, but also for world peace. There will be no stability in the world unless the Middle East finds a just peace.

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Afghanistan

Opposition Launches 'Massive' Air, Ground Offensive

MiG-21 Downed

BK2110162494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1532 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 21 (AFP)—Backed up by an air strike, rival factions launched a massive infantry offensive against troops loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in south Kabul Friday [21 October], losing one jet in the attack according to military sources.

The heavy south Kabul fire-fight stretched along a front from Dehmazang Square in the east to Kowt-e Sang-e in the west, but many rockets were also fired into other parts of Kabul causing serious civilian casualties.

"We shot down a MiG-21 jet piloted by Major-General Allahdad, who crashed in the Salang area," Doctor Abdullah told AFP.

Abdullah, aide to ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, strongman of the presidential camp, said three jets of former pro-communist Uzbek General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam bombed Kabul in a surprise attack early Friday.

He said the MiG-21 was destroyed by an air-to-air missile.

The three Russian-made jets, two Sukhoi Su-22s and the MiG-21, bombed pro-Rabbani heavy weapons bases in northwest Kabul and on the central Kabul mountain peak known as "television tower".

The Dostam jets were in support of a combined attacking force of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction and their Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat allies, who were repulsed with the loss of two tanks said Abdullah.

In Islamabad, Mangal Hussein, a spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami, said that the Hezb and its allies had made a very significant advance in south Kabul during this offensive and captured Gardaneh-e Sakhi, a strategic hill near television tower.

Having received information about the planned attack, Abdullah said pro-Rabbani jets based in Bagram airforce base some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of the capital launched a pre-emptive strike against Dostam's northern airbases in Mazar-e Sharif and Sheberghan late Wednesday and early Thursday.

Dostam was able to repair the damage, but in retaliation Abdullah alleged that four jets from Termez in neighbouring Uzbekistan raided Bagram in the early Friday, although they inflicted litle damage.

Attack Repulsed in Kabul

LD2110171494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Oct 94

[From the news headlines]

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the Golboddin-Mazari militias was repulsed this morning.

The residential areas of Kabul city were subjected to intensive rocket attack today by the Golboddin-Mazari militias.

A MiG-21 aircraft of the Dostam militia was also shot down this morning.

Rabbani Troops Secure University

BK2210111694 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 22 (AFP)—Troops loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani were firmly in control of Kabul University and adjacent areas Saturday [22 October] after repulsing advances by rival forces, frontline soldiers said.

"The enemy tried several times to push us out but they failed," pro-Rabbani troops inside the university campus said, adding that four of their number had been killed and another four wounded in an attack on Friday.

Positions held by pro-Rabbani troops have been under assault from a combined force of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat faction and their Pushtun Hezb-e Eslami allies.

Radio Kabul reported that 15 civilians had been killed and 97 were wounded in rocket attacks on residential areas of the capital during the infantry assault in south Kabul Friday.

Frontline pro-Rabbani troops on the university campus said that Wahdat guerrillas, under cover of darkness, regularly penetrated the university perimeter, but could not advance to any faculty buildings.

"Ten dead Wahdat we killed in yesterday's attack are still lying in the university, but it's a no-man's land and nobody can retrieve the bodies," said a pro-Rabbani soldier cleaning an anti-tank rocket launcher.

During a tour of the university it was clear that extensive damage has been inflicted on various departments during the factional fighting here.

In the engineering faculty, one electronics laboratory has been completely gutted by fire, and the library has taken several direct hits in which scores of reference books and shelves have been destroyed.

One reference section of the library has been reduced to a huge pile of ash.

The combined Wahdat and Hezb-e Eslami attacking force had more success further east at Dehmazang

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Square, where they managed to capture the former Russian cultural centre and the Barikot Cinema.

Pro-Rabbani troops and locals said the force had later been pushed back.

A large number of civilians were seen on the move Saturday, including a 10-year-old boy struggling with a wheel-barrow filled with household goods.

"Our home got hit by a rocket yesterday. No one was hurt but now we are leaving," the boy said.

Apart from sporadic small-arms fire, the south Kabul front was quiet Saturday, although pro-Rabbani gunners based on the central-city mountain peaks behind the university and Dehmazang kept up harrassment fire against Wahdat-controlled areas.

Over 300 Casualties

BK2210135294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kabul, Oct 22 (AFP)—Troops loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani were firmly in control of Kabul University following fierce fighting in which at least 50 people were killed and another 257 wounded, medical and military sources said Saturday.

At least 50 civilians were killed and 160 wounded in areas controlled by Rabbani's forces, the sources said. Most of the casualties occurred during heavy fighting Friday as Rabbani's troops repulsed advances by rival factions.

A source from the International Committee of the Red Cross said 97 people were injured in areas held by the opposition Hezb-e Wahdat. [passage omitted]

Areas Said Freed From 'Coalition'

LD2210160494 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to restore security in the area and to clear the coalition forces from the strategic points in Karta-e Sakhi and on Television Mountain, the High Coordination Council's forces yesterday morning started large-scale mopping-up operations in these areas. The coalition's important positions were seized in a short time.

During this successful operation, the building of science and culture, the power station of Dehmazang, offices of Kabul traffic, the Ministry of Agriculture, Madrasa-e Mohammadiya, and other strategic points in Karta-e Sakhi and in the university areas were all freed from the control of the mercenary coalition forces. The coalition forces have also suffered heavy loss of life and material.

In the course of these operations, the aircraft of the High Coordination Council, assisting the ground forces, yesterday started to bombard the headquarters and strategic points of the coalition forces, as well as Bagram airfield, Babajan headquarters, and Television Mountain. As a result of this bombardment, heavy losses were inflicted on the men and military installations of the mercenary coalition. In addition, the runway of Bagram airfield has been destroyed and is out of operation. This airfieled is closed.

Several coalition heavy weapon positions on Television Mountain and other areas were destroyed.

The source added that the mopping-up operation is continuing. The forces of the High Coordination Council are continuing their advances with high morale.

Iran

Jannati Sermon on 'Wrong Policies,' Corruption

LD2110171794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1159 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, member of the Guardian Council, in Tehran on 21 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

In the short time that I have left I want to speak about a number of issues. One is to do with the topic of the day, that is high prices. Praise be to God, everyone has now been mobilized and admitted that high prices are indeed a problem in our society which needs to be confronted in a serious way. [passage omitted praising Rafsanjani for initiating the campaign, and asking everyone to make efforts to ensure the campaign's success]

As far as this issue is concerned, there are a number of things that I should point out. The problem is a complicated one in that it is not due to one single reason or cause. Many factors have been responsible for bringing about this situation. The issue must be analyzed thoughtfully and the roots must be identified. Once the roots are found, then the problem will need to be confronted seriously and firmly, without having any consideration for any trend [jaryan] in particular, and without letting any obstacle stand in the way. In other words, one must enter the arena bravely.

As everyone has said, and I will only mention briefly here, the problem has two general causes. One is to do with the government, and the other concerns the people. The first one is linked with a mistake that was made; that is to say wrong policies and the wrong reports that brought about those mistaken policies. The intention to generate and accumulate income, despite the fact that it may have had a correct philosophy behind it, proved wrong for us because of the way it was carried out. This

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is to say that every [state] organ began thinking of achieving some kind of autonomy, and when they realized that they themselves could use their incomes, they started a relentless effort to increase this income. They did not stop to think what problems this trend of increase in their income would create for people.

Some thought that by earning an income they are really serving the government and people in some way. They, however, failed to see that you cannot consider all types of income generation at all levels as a service. They did not realize that the generation of income in some cases could even be considered as treason.

What these gentlemen should realize is that their duty in fact is to gain the satisfaction of the people, which is the same as winning God's satisfaction. If income is generated for this purpose and on the basis of this principle, that is for ensuring that the people are satisfied, happy, and healthy, then this is a very good thing. This income can be used for development work and reconstruction of ruins.

However, if an income—no matter with what good intention and for what purpose it has been earned—leads to the creation of discontent among the people, then it is unacceptable. It is illegitimate. If the intention is really to serve the people, then it should be known that such an income will not benefit people. This principle should always be borne in mind. Some people, however, neglected this.

Another thing which I just mentioned was that some individuals submitted wrong reports. They should be made to answer for what they have done. Why did you submit such a report, which brought about the present situation?

Those who are responsible for causing this situation should not be just dismissed as a final measure, without anybody asking them why they have done such things. Can anyone achieve anything like this? The system which does not contain proper means of encouragement and proper means of punishment and dealing with wrong-doings, that system will lead to the emboldening of profiteers and saboteurs.

One should fight against corrupt management. There are a number of individuals, a number of capitalists who wish to engage in certain acts and increase their wealth and their assets. They are prevented by law. As they are corrupt, they also corrupt some officials so as to smooth their own path, so that they are not dealt with according to law. We have had many such cases. These cases have been part of the reason for high prices.

The issue of imports and exports should be controlled. We must have exports and imports. However, each of them should be in a limited and a definite scale. Imports should be limited to the least possible amount and only as much as is necessary. Exports should be in a large scale, provided that they do not inflict any blows [shortages] domestically, provided that the foreign exchange which is earned as a result of them is returned to the country. There were many billions of dollars of exports. We were very happy that *our non-oil* exports had increased. Later, we discovered that the exports had gone abroad, but the dollars [earned] had not been returned. Who was responsible for this? Who has been responsible for these $3 or $4 billion of exports? Those who have done it and those who have been responsible for it should be investigated and should be asked why they have done this. Under conditions when we are in need of dollars for our various export needs and debts and so on, why do you export commodities needed by the people, and deposit the money from it in foreign banks, or invest it abroad. The result is that a commodity becomes expensive in the country without any reason, the people suffer and they do not reap any benefits from it. These issues should be investigated.

Also all these unnecessary imports, this large number of cars which are imported...[pauses] It is said that there are a large number of foreign cars parked in customs departments [at the borders] waiting to be imported. They should be sent back to where they come from. They should not be allowed in. We have no need of them. In fact, we should have a policy for reducing the number of cars. Why should the level of gasoline consumption be higher in Iran than in China, despite its population of 1.2-1.3 billion while our population is only 60 million? Why should our gasoline consumption be higher than theirs? One of the ways of reducing gasoline consumption is to reduce the number of cars, so that we do not import so many private cars, and many expensive cars at that! On the one hand, we keep sending our dollars abroad; and, on the other hand, we keep consuming so much petroleum at such low prices which are even lower than the cost of producing it. And if they wish to increase the price it will lead to many problems, and this has been one of our current problems during the past few years. This is one of the ways of cutting the consumption. Why do they import so many cars? Well, this is the issue of imports which should be dealt with very seriously.

The next issue is the issues of laws. One of the complaints of many experts is that these changeable laws destabilize the market. A law is passed, after a time when some people invest on the basis of that law, when they arrange their affairs on the basis of that law and sign contracts on the basis of that law, a few days later that law is suddenly changed, and all the calculations of those people are made null and void.

Well, those who want to invest should have some certainty about the future of their investment. They say: We produce this good, we use so much of it domestically, we export so much of it abroad, we can strike a deal with a foreign country, so much money should be paid, we sign an agreement. The investor should know that he can stick to his agreement within a specified period of, say,

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one or two years. These changeable laws create instability and one of the difficulties caused by them is this very same high prices. Attention should be paid to this.

Regarding confronting profiteers, they should be confronted really seriously. This issue is a very serious one. One of the measures on the card, and we hope it is implemented and does not face difficulties in its implementation, is that the profiteer will be confronted right on the spot at the center of profiteering, just as the traffic police penalize the wrongdoer right on the spot. And then if he has a complaint [against the police] he can go ahead with it. Well, the profiteer should be penalized on the spot, straightaway, and told: You must pay this amount as penalty. And if he has a complaint, he can go ahead and make the complaint. This is required under the current circumstances and should be implemented seriously. [passage omitted]

This matter must become a part of our culture. If the establishment is trustworthy, which it should be, we must trust the executive and judicial establishments. If it is trusted with responsibility, why do you keep making recommendations on behalf of the accused? Well, in the final analysis some [judge] might make a mistake. He will then take note and there will be some form of review, judgement or court to see to his case. There might even be someone wrongly punished here or there. Is it better to punish 97 true offenders and have three wrongly punished or to have a flood of recommendations and the punishment of only 20 or 30 offenders with everybody who has access or connected to somewhere fleeing from the wheel of justice. This cannot be so.

Unfortunately they sometimes approach reasonable and popular individuals. They have one or two intermediaries to a cleric, Friday prayer leader, or an official. When they come up against a problem they activate the intermediary, and that official, without due attention and without awareness of the consequence, risks his own honor to make recommendations asking for the freedom of the individual. This must absolutely stop, unless there is a case that is fully investigated, has not been made through recommendation, and is based on knowledge. Then they can bear witness that this gentleman has not made a mistake. This will be added to the case, as a witness and along with other facts, and will be taken into the final account. But it is wrong if he insists that the accused should be released.

There is another issue. The last one. I don't want to keep you waiting. One way of solving the problem is to curb consumption. Why are they consuming so much? Are there no bounds to consumption of food, fruits, sweets, clothes, houses, cars and so on? There are a group who buy as much as they can. It is surprising. If such excesses are curbed the shortages will be reduced from the [existing] level. It is clear to me that we don't really have great problems and could easily solve them if only we would be wise. We, among our ranks, should have a wise approach to problems. We should see the existing situation, the world and our conditions and make wise decisions. In this case the Islamic recommendation is piety in consumption. You might even have the money and the ability to make ten different dishes for your guests. But for the sake of God don't do it. People have problems. Look how some people might have meat only once a month. Why are you consuming so much meat? Some people might not have easy access to fruit? Why are you wasting so much of it at the time of celebration or mourning? I will leave this issue although there is much to say.

The other issue is the Persian Gulf, the American mischief and its suspicious and doubtful presence in the Persian Gulf. May God curse Saddam a thousand times for paving the way for them to come to the Persian Gulf.

In fact the service that Saddam rendered to the United States is unprecedented throughout its history. It might be for this very same reason that they have kept him in power. To be honest, I do not know if the movement of the Ba'thist forces in Iraq was not okayed by them. Or did they not give a green light somewhere? Did they not prepare the ground, in some way or other, to find a pretext for them [American forces] to come [to the region].

Otherwise, can any logical man believe that Iraq, with its bad situation, could attack Kuwait again, ignoring the past experience? It is true that he [Saddam] has some insanity, but insanity to this extent is unbelievable.

Finally, a small and tasteless pretext was created for them and they came to the Persian Gulf. They came and gathered here from every direction. They sent vessels; they sent forces.

Fine. Now they have a presence here. However, I want to make a statement, I know this much, I can predict this clearly on the basis of my Islamic studies: We know, and I am sure, that the darkest day in the history of the world is awaiting America. [crowd chants in support]

The reason for this is obvious. In the past, each muscleman would bully a particular region. After suffering greatly, that region would rise up and it was suppressed.

Therefore, conflicts were regional. The revolts were regional. It [USA] is bullying the world. The world will surely rise up against it. The world will confront it. The world will suppress it. This is very obvious and I do not think it needs many reasons or logic. This is a tradition in history. In the world, whoever bullies until his bullying becomes unbearable to people, finally, the people will one day become fed up and rise up against him and crush him.

And it is bullying the world. Well, it has its term and it will come to an end; the term of everything is prescribed [Koranic expression]. But, in any case, this presence is very ugly and abominable. They have reached a stage where they blatantly say we do not pay any attention to international regulations of the United Nations. Up to now they had used the United Nations as a shield, but

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now they see that the United Nations might not give them permission, so they say we pay no attention to it. If we see America's interests threatened anywhere we will go there. That is what we have said in advance, that they respect nothing. If certain people were fooled at the United Nations, or if they have deceived the people of the world that the UN international regulations prevail, it is nothing but demagogy.

In any case, we have faith in God and our revolutionary ways and in God's protection. God willing, there will not be any dangers, but America's military presence in the region is intolerable. What do they want to do here? They are usurpers, they are foreigners. This place belongs to the countries around the Gulf, be it on this side or that. The Persian Gulf littoral states are responsible for the region and could maintain its security much better than America. America has brought nothing but unrest for the region.

Another matter I should talk about is, as you are aware, the critical situation in Israel at present. On the one hand the detention of an Israeli soldier which led to that incident, in which they imprisoned hundreds of honorable Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Muslims in order to rescue that soldier. But, unfortunately, that so and so PLO came and became an agent of Israeli will. One really feels sorry that they are acting in the interests of their enemies and against their friends and brothers. They have become the bought-and-paid-for agents of Israel to suppress the Muslims of Palestine.

And then there was that explosion yesterday or the day before. It was a message which if they could hear they would know full well states that for Israel and Jordan to sit together and sign an agreement will not solve any problems. The main opposition to Israel is the Muslims and Palestinians, and they do not attach the least importance to those signatures. That is clear. [passage omitted expressing condolences on the anniversary of martyrdom of Khomeyni's son Mostafa]

My last topic is that of 13 Aban [4 November]. Although there is another Friday before then, but since I cannot say anymore at Friday prayers, I recommend that the 13 Aban ceremonies this year should be marked more gloriously than on previous years. All the classes of the people should take part in the 13 Aban ceremonies and with their screams show that, under any conditions, this nation, its government, its clergy, its students are all anti-American. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

UNP Presidential Candidate Dissanayake Assassinated

Bomb Kills 60 Others

BK2410032194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, the opposition United National Party's [UNP] presidential candidate, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, and 60 others have been killed in a massive bomb blast at a campaign meeting in Colombo. About 300 people have been injured. The tragedy took place off Grand Pass Road just after midnight. According to eyewitnesses, Mr. Dissanayake was addressing the election meeting when the bomb went off. Another report said the slain leader had finished his address and was greeting the people when the explosion took place. Our Colombo correspondent Kannan reports that others who have been killed include former ministers of the UNP, Mr. G.M. Premachandra, Mr. Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi, and the general secretary of the party, Mr. Wijesekera.

The leader of the Sri Lanka Mahanja Pakshaya, Mr. Ossie Abeygoonesekara, a close associate of the late president, Premadasa, was seriously wounded and rushed to the hospital.

An indefinite curfew has been imposed throughout the island-nation and an emergency declared. The prime minister, Mrs. Chandrika-Kumaratunga, has called an emergency meeting of the cabinet following the assassination.

The president, Mr. Wijetunga, and the prime minister have expressed shock and condemned the barbaric act. The prime minister has said the government will take speedy action to find out the guilty and appealed to the people to remain calm. Our correspondent adds that the inspector general of police has deployed several investigating teams to probe the assassination.

In view of the bomb blast, the second round of peace talks with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], scheduled for today, has been called off. A senior military official told a news agency in Colombo that it is suspected that there was a suicide bomber in the crowd in the second or third row who had explosives. According to police officials, Tamil rebels are the prime suspects in the killing. Reports also say that just a fortnight back, Mr. Dissanayake told the press that he was on the hit list of the LTTE.

According to authoritative sources in Colombo, the Sri Lankan Constitution does not provide for postponement of the presidential elections in the event of death of any of the candidates. The commissioner of elections, however, will give three days time to the concerned party to nominate another candidate.

Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, 52, was the main rival to the ruling People's Alliance candidate, Mrs. Kumaratunga, for the 9 November presidential election. A minister of plantation industries in the Premadasa government, until he lost his portfolio in 1990, Mr. Dissnayake, along with the late Lalith Athulathmudali, had led a rebellion against the slain president, Ranasinghe Premadasa. Mr. Dissanyake formed a new party—the Democratic United National Front—after his expulsion; however, was readmitted to the UNP by the president, D.B.

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Wijentunga. He was subsequently nominated as a presidential candidate by the UNP. A known advocate of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord of 1987 for resolution of Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis, Mr. Dissanayake entered parliament for the first time in May 1970 at the age of 28.

Prime Minister Appeals for Calm

BK2410055094 Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 24 (AFP)—Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed for calm after Monday's assassination of opposition leader Gamini Dissanayake and at least 56 others during a presidential campaign rally here.

"We call upon the people to act with the utmost restraint and to be calm in order to help maintain peace and order in the country," Kumaratunga said in a one-page statement.

The government almost immediately clamped an indefinite, island-wide curfew from dawn Monday and declared a state of emergency in the country giving wide powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects.

Residents were told to stay home until further notice.

In a separate message, President Dingiri Banda Wijetunge said he had ordered an immediate investigation into the slaying and that "several teams of crack investigators" had been deployed.

Kumaratunga said her government condemned "this barbaric act" and vowed to "take rapid action to ascertain the truth with regard to this incident.

"I assure the people that the offenders whoever they may be will be brought to justice and dealt with impartially and effectively, " she said.

Streets of the capital Colombo were deserted and shops were closed as the early morning curfew stopped all but a few people from leaving their homes.

Army Leave Canceled

BK2410071094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, leave to all ranks in the Army has been canceled with immediate effect. The commander of the Army, Lieutenant General Gerry de Silva, said all officers who are on leave should report for duty forthwith. This follows the assassination of the opposition UNP [United National Party] presidential candidate, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, and 60 others in a bomb explosion at an election rally in Colombo last night.

Police sources in Colombo said this morning that they suspect the blast was triggered by a human bomb, possibly a woman. Police have found a human skull with long hair that had landed on the roof of a two-story building near the site of the explosion. The areas surrounding the meeting place has been cordoned off and a thorough investigation is on to identity those responsible for the blast.

The election commissioner of Sri Lanka, Mr. R.K. Chandrananda, has said that the presidential election will be held as scheduled on the ninth of next month despite the assassination of Gamini Dissanayake.

Bomber Possibly Disabled Person

BK2410094194 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 24 (AFP)—A suspected suicide bomber who assassinated Sri Lankan opposition presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake and killed 56 others may have been a cripple, military sources said.

The badly mutilated body of a man with a pair of crutches was found among dozens of bodies and a heap of limbs and flesh within an area the size of a tennis court, the sources said.

"Initially we thought it could have been a woman whose head we found on top of a three-storyed building. But it turned out she was a government servant above suspicion," the source said.

He said there were artificial limbs at the scene of another LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suicide attack in September when the rebels blew up a navy gunboat off the island's northwestern coast, leaving 25 sailors killed or missing.

"The Tigers are now using crippled men and women to carry out suicide attacks. So it is likely they employed a cripple on Monday," the source said.

Moderate Tamils as well as security officials have said that they suspect the LTTE of carrying out Monday's attack against a crowded opposition presidential campaign rally in Colombo's Thotalanga district.

The government suspended a scheduled second round of peace talks with Tamil Tigers scheduled for Monday and instead declared a state of emergency giving wide powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects.

Further Details on Assassination

BK2410114594 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake has been assassinated. He was killed in a bomb explosion when he was addressing an election campaign rally in Colombo last night. The late Gamini Dissanayake was 52 years old and an old boy of Trinity College, Kandy. He later entered law college. From an early age, he was interested in politics and was elected to parliament from Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya seat in the

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1970 general elections. Mr. Dissanayake, who was a senior leader of the United National Party [UNP] became minister of lands, irrigation, and Mahaweli development in the J.R. Jayewardene government of 1977.

Immediately after the incident, an emergency cabinet meeting was held. It was disclosed that the bomb blast occurred a short while after Mr. Gamini Dissanayake addressed the meeting. Among those, who were killed, were former minister of food and cooperatives, Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi; former labor minister and chief minister of one of the provinces and Member of Parliament, G.M. Premachandra; and Christie Perera.

A senior police officer said that Mr. Gamini Dissanayake died on admission to hospital. Hospital sources say that there were about 20 bodies in the mortuary. The police say that it is still not possible to determine who exactly was responsible for the attack.

Mr. Gamini Dissanayake was the plantation industries minister in the Ranasinghe Premadasa government. However, he was expelled from the party after the impeachment motion against President Ranasinghe Premadasa. He left the party along with a senior minister, Lalith Athulathmudali. Later, he formed the Democratic United National Front [DUNF] along with Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali. He became the leader of the DUNF on the death of Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali. He rejected the UNP and was minister of Mahaweli development under President D.B. Wijetunga. He was elected a member of parliament from the Kandy District at the last general elections and was the leader of the opposition and UNP presidential candidate.

President D.B. Wijetunga has expressed his deep regret on the assassination. He has condemned this cowardly and dastardly act. He has stressed the fact that this type of violence negates the democratic process. He has directed the law enforcement authorities to begin investigations immediately with a view to dealing with the offenders in terms of the law. The IGP [Inspector General of Police] has already deployed several teams of crack investigators. As a precautionary measure and with a view to maintaining law and order, the president has declared a state of emergency and imposed an island-wide curfew until further notice. He has appealed to all countrymen to remain calm at this moment of grief.

Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga says that her government deeply regrets and condemns the barbaric act at an election meeting at Grand Pass last night which caused the death of UNP presidential candidate, Gamini Dissanayake, and some of the leaders of the UNP and caused injury to many others. She said it is most regrettable that, at a time when the government was committed to wiping out all forms of political violence from the country and introducing democracy and decency to Sri Lankan politics, that the same despicable violence should strike again. Mrs. Kumaratunga offers heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Dissanayake and her children and the families of all the dead. She said she understands the depth and intensity of the grief of all those who had lost their loved ones as she experienced the trauma of the assassination of two people very near and dear to her. She called on the people to act with the utmost restraint in this situation and to be calm in order to help maintain law and order in the country. The government while condemning this act in the strongest possible terms will take rapid action to ascertain the truth with regard to this incident. She assured that the offenders, whoever they are, will be brought to justice and dealt with impartially and effectively.

A special team from the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] has started investigations into the bomb explosion and explosive experts are already conducting investigations. DIG [Deputy Inspector General], Colombo, Chandra Fernando, told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that these assassinations were similar to those in the past. He did not rule out the possibility of the explosion being carried out by a suicide bomber.

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srima Dissanayake, the wife of Gamini Dissanayake, has appealed to the people to be calm in this hour of tragedy. Mr. Dissanayake was a man dedicated to nonviolence and democracy. She says the greatest tribute the people can pay to their leader was to act with utmost calm and restraint, sharing their sorrow with compassion and forgiveness.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] secretary, Dharmasiri Senanayake, in a statement noted that, although he had thought that such dastardly acts had been eliminated from the political field, our good image had been tarnished by the repetition of this unfortunate incident. The prime minister has pledged that the offenders would be brought to justice and dealt with impartially, he said. He adds that the SLFP strongly condemns the incident.

The People's Alliance has expressed its deepest sympathies on this incident. Its secretary D.N. Jayaratne, says the people have responded positively to a request made by the alliance to create a peaceful environment within two months after assuming power. A suitable background was created for the people to live without fear. It was extremely sad for the occurrence of this situation at this juncture in the country's history.

The Lanka Sama Samaja Party leader, Bernard Soysa, pointed out that it was sad to note such assassinations when attempts were being made to establish peace in the country. He said his party condemns such assassinations.

K.P. Silva of the Sri Lanka Communist Party has said it was a great blow for democracy in the country and such dastardly acts were disgraceful. He said the government should focus its attention to investigate and punish those responsible for the explosion.

The leader of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, Dinesh Gunawardene, has strongly condemned the killing of

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Gamini Dissanayake and others. He points out that the people should act with responsibility in such a situation.

The commissioner for elections, Chandrananda De Silva, has explained provisions of the Presidential Election Act with regard to event of a candidate between the nominations and the date of polls being assassinated. He says that a substitute candidate has to be nominated by such political party or the elector within three days of notice being issued for the purpose by the commissioner. Therefore, the election commissioner says that, consequent to the death of Gamini Dissanayake, he has today issued notice on the secretary of the United National Party to make such substitute nominations within three days. Such nominations should therefore reach him before Thursday [27 October]. He pointed out that the poll will take place on the 9th of next month as scheduled with the substitution of the new name in place of the deceased.

The president has imposed a state of curfew and emergency throughout the island. The lifting of the curfew has not yet been announced. The president has taken this measure in order to ensure the maintenance of law and order in the country.

UNP To Hold Special Session

BK2410132194 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Tamil 1230 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The emergency sitting of the executive committee of the United National Party [UNP] will be held at 1700 [1130 GMT] tomorrow evening to consider the situation arising out of the assassination of Gamini Dissanayake, the opposition leader and UNP's presidential candidate, as well as to discuss future political strategy. The party leader and President D.B. Wijetunga will preside over the meeting.

Meanwhile, a special meeting of the UNP parliamentary party will be held at the Parliament Building at 0900 hours tomorrow morning.

Curfew To Be Lifted

BK2410132894 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Tamil 1230 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Ministry has announced that the nationwide curfew now in force will be lifted at 0400 [2230 GMT] early morning tomorrow. It has also announced that if necessary, the curfew will be reimposed within short notice. The state of emergency, now in force throughout the country, will continue until further notice.

Joint Statement Follows First Round of Peace Talks

BK2110122894 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A joint statement has been issued by the government delegation and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] after the first round of talks held last week in Jaffna. The statement says the talks were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and goodwill and the talks were constructive.

In his opening speech, the leader of the LTTE delegation, Mr. Karikalan, said that the new government of Chandrika Bandaranaike- Kumaratunga has taken constructive measures to create congenial conditions for peace. He said that he was genuinely committed to a political settlement through peaceful negotiations. Mr. Karikalan emphasized the importance of the cease-fire and said that for the first time since the Bandaranaike-Selvanayagam dialogue, a Sri Lankan leader had publicly pledged to serve peacefully to resolve Tamil grievances.

The leader of the government delegation, K. Balapatabendi, has stated that the prime minister is most gratified that a commitment to the peaceful solution of the national problem without precondition has been reciprocated by the LTTE and the Tamil community.

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